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Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Thursday, November 27, 2014

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



In this November, 2014, photo, a gang of Broad Breasted Whites roam their paddock before they are harvested for Thanksgiving at Violet Hill Farm, in West Winfield, N.Y. The turkeys' lives are starkly different from their factory farm brethren as the nearly 250 fully-pastured turkeys spend their time roaming a constantly cycling series of green spaces.

(AP Photo/John Minchillo)



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American Holiday:

A Thanksgiving Table With Plenty of Emotional Room

JENNIFER CONLIN

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(Reverse Parenting)

Living as I do with my parents, older brother, husband and two youngest children, I have to say that most Sunday evenings in our multigenerational home seem a lot like Thanksgiving. Sunday tends to be the night I cook a big dinner, as my older sister who lives nearby usually comes over that evening, as does a cousin or two and the odd visitor from out of town.

As a result, I know a lot about how to survive the family dynamics of a mega-meal like the one happening for nearly everyone in a few days. Here are a few tips garnered from four consecutive years of group dining.

COOKING

Collective cooking is supposed to be fun, but let's be honest: It's not. Anyone who really loves to cook, like me, is a bit of a dictator in the kitchen.

Sharing counter space and cutting boards with helpful family members does not make preparing a meal easier for me; it makes it far more difficult. How am I supposed to mix just the right amount of cream into my mashed potatoes if I also have to keep an exacting eye on the amount of rock salt my mother is sprinkling over the brussels sprouts?

My best Thanksgiving meals were made during our years overseas, when I had no extended family around telling me how to roast the turkey or make the stuffing, and I was able to bar all guests from my kitchen. But then, when I looked around the table and there were no faces

(other than those of my children) that looked like parts of mine, I would feel very sad.

CONVERSATION

Once you seat more than five people around one table, which is a regular

I say mix it up - you may be surprised at what good conversationalists 10-year-olds can be if you actu-

less frustrating than trying to catch him up by backtracking through our dialogue. Last week, when he thought we said "bayonet" rather than "badminton," it led to a far more interesting historical discussion about military arms than we would have ever had about racket sports.

CLEANUP JOB

There is a wonderfully polite way the British describe someone who has had too much to drink at a party. He or she will be called "tired and emotional," and then promptly taken home or, at the very least, retired to a nearby bedroom.

Though sipping a lovely cabernet can ease the preparation pain in the kitchen, do not drink too much and become "tired and emotional," as we all know that mixing alcohol with relatives can spur festering anger. This is another good reason to seat adults next to children, particularly when it comes to breaking up siblings with a bad history. If a conflict does appear to be rearing its head, and you are a part of it, simply retire to the kitchen for a few minutes, as I do, and get a head start on the vast cleanup of this gelatinous meal. Though it would be wonderful if everyone helped clean up while dancing, like in "The Big Chill" after-dinner scene, it is truly unlikely (and not the most efficient way to clean up a kitchen anyway).

This year, I will be away for the holidays, on a trip with my husband and children. I have to admit, though, I feel a bit guilty about leaving my parents behind. What will they do without me in charge?

Have a splendidly relaxed time, I fear. □



Broad Breasted Whites, a specific breed of turkey prized for their size and larger proportion of white meat, stand in their paddock at Violet Hill Farm before they are harvested for Thanksgiving, in West Winfield, N.Y. The turkeys are less colorful than their wild cousins.

(AP Photo/John Minchillo)

That said ... when it comes to relatives, you have no choice but to allow people to lend a stirring hand, particularly as everyone wants to gather in the kitchen (no matter how small) rather than in the living room (no matter how big).

What I have finally learned is to just give in. Sipping a glass of wine while my sister chops the carrots into circles, rather than my preferred matchstick shape, always helps take the edge off. And if everyone wants Stove Top stuffing rather than my homemade pork-and-sage dressing, so be it. Remember: It is supposed to be about the togetherness of your family, not the thickness of your gravy.

occurrence here, chaos normally ensues. That is why I like to assign seating (the dictator in me again), which forces people (particularly the children) to have conversations with those they normally would not. Kid's tables, I believe, are a bad idea, as the younger ones will hang out before and after the meal anyway. The best way for children to learn how to behave at a dinner party is to seat them with adults (unless the adults don't know how to behave, either).

In Europe, children routinely eat with their parents and their friends at formal meals, and even more important, they eat the same food as their parents. So

ally take the time to talk to them. The one exception being the time I was seated next to a child in Paris who only wanted to discuss her "extreme head lice" condition.

On the other hand, talking to the oldest members at the table can be trying, particularly if they are suffering from hearing loss, like my father. Keeping him abreast of the conversation, my family has learned all too well, is increasingly difficult, as he is constantly hearing something different than what we have actually said.

So now, we just automatically shift the conversation to whatever topic he thinks we are discussing. It is far

Sloppy weather slows US holiday travelers



Motorists brave the falling snow as they head south on Interstate 81 near Staunton, Va., Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2014. One of the busiest, most stressful travel days of the year posed special challenges in the crowded Washington-to-Boston corridor as travelers on their way to Thanksgiving celebrations contended with a nor'easter packing rain and snow.
(AP Photo/The Daily News Leader, Mike Tripp)

holiday getaway, grounding hundreds of flights and turning highways hazardous on what is typically one of country's the busiest travel days of the year. By early afternoon, more than 600 flights had been canceled, the bulk of them in the Northeast. Thousands of flight delays were also expected as the snow piled up a day before Thanksgiving, the most important holiday of the year for many American families, who gather for turkey feasts.

Major Northeast cities were likely to see moderate to heavy rain most of the day, though New York could see up to 4 inches (10 centimeters) of snow, and its northern suburbs up to 8 inches (20 centimeters), the National Weather Service said. New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo activated the state's Emergency Operations Center and had 1,800 plow operators standing by to clear snow between New York City and Albany, the state capital. □



Thanksgiving holiday travelers make their way to departing trains at Penn Station, Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2014, in New York. One of the busiest, most stressful travel days of the year posed special challenges in the crowded Washington-to-Boston corridor as travelers on their way to Thanksgiving celebrations contended with a nor'easter packing rain and snow.
(AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)



President Barack Obama, right, pardons "Cheese," the turkey at the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2014, during the annual Thanksgiving ceremony. Cole Cooper, far left, and his father Gary Cooper, chairman of the National Turkey Federation, helped hold "Cheese" during the event.
(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

FRANK ELTMAN
Associated Press
MINEOLA, New York (AP) — A sloppy mix of rain and snow rolled into the U.S. Northeast on Wednesday as millions of Americans made the big Thanksgiving

Obama defends authority-to pardon Thanksgiving turkeys

D. SUPERVILLE
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is defending his legal authority to take executive actions — to spare a pair of Thanksgiving turkeys. Obama joked that his annual turkey pardon will be his "most talked about executive action this month." Last week, the president issued a series of highly anticipated executive actions on immigration that

are opposed by Republicans. The two turkeys who were granted this year's presidential pardons are Mac and Cheese. Obama says that around Thanksgiving, turkeys named after side dishes would normally have a "pretty low" chance of escaping the dinner table. The birds will be sent to a Northern Virginia turkey farm to live out the rest of their days. □

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Protesters rush St. Louis City Hall over shooting

JIM SALTER
JIM SUHR

Associated Press

FERGUSON, Missouri (AP) —

Several people protesting a grand jury decision not to indict a police officer in the shooting death of an unarmed black 18-year-old stormed into City Hall in St. Louis on Wednesday, leading police to lock down the building and call in more than a hundred additional officers.

Those who made it inside City Hall were part of a group of about 200 protesters who marched and held a mock trial of Darren Wilson, the white police officer who shot and killed Michael Brown during a confrontation in Ferguson, a St. Louis suburb.

At least two people were arrested after the City Hall incident, in which the protesters shouted "Shame, shame" while rushing into the building. The families of three unarmed black men who recently died at the hands of police officers linked arms with the Rev. Al Sharpton on Wednesday and prayed for justice. The racially charged case

has stoked passions nationwide, triggering debates over the relations between black communities and law enforcement. Since the grand jury's decision was

drawn attention to other police killings.

In New York City on Wednesday, Brown's parents joined the families of two other black men who

commercial buildings were burned down and several others were set ablaze.

Demonstrators took to the streets again Tuesday night, but there were hundreds of

fore the shooting. He told ABC that Brown's shooting was the first time he fired his gun on the job.

Asked whether the encounter would have unfolded the same way if Brown had been white, Wilson said yes. The grand jury's decision means Wilson won't face state charges in Brown's death.

Attorneys for the Brown family said the grand jury process was rigged from the start to clear the Wilson. One of them, Anthony Gray suggested that prosecutor Bob McCulloch presented certain testimony to discredit the process, including from witnesses who did not see the shooting.

The attorneys vowed to pursue federal charges. The U.S. Justice Department is conducting a civil rights investigation into the shooting, but federal investigations of police misconduct face a steep legal standard to justify a prosecution. Brown's parents made public calls for peace in the run-up to Monday's announcement, and on Tuesday, their representatives again stressed that the people setting fires were not on Michael Brown's side. Videos that were widely circulated on Tuesday showed Brown's mother, Lesley McSpadden, standing atop a car and breaking down as the announcement of the grand jury decision blares over the stereo. Her husband, Brown's stepfather, comforts her, then begins angrily yelling "Burn this bitch down!" to a crowd gathered around him. Asked about the comment at a news conference, family attorney Benjamin Crump said the reaction was, "raw emotion. Not appropriate at all. Completely inappropriate." □



Michael Brown, father of Michael Brown, Rev. Al Sharpton, Kimberly Ballinger, domestic partner and mother of Akai Gurley's daughter and Lesley McSpadden, mother of Michael Brown, front row left to right, join hands in prayer at National Action Network headquarters, in New York, Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2014. On the day before Thanksgiving, Sharpton brought together the families of Michael Brown, Eric Garner and Akai Gurley, all black men recently killed by police officers.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

announced Monday night, protesters in cities throughout the country have rallied behind the refrain "hands up, don't shoot," and

were unarmed when they died at the hands of police. The families joined arms with civil rights leader Al Sharpton and prayed for justice at the Harlem headquarters of Sharpton's organization, the National Action Network.

As the tension in Ferguson eased somewhat, Wilson broke his long public silence, insisting on national television that he could not have done anything differently in the Aug. 9 confrontation. The officer testified during the grand jury hearings that he felt threatened and that Brown tried to grab his gun, something the Brown family has said they don't believe.

An influx of National Guardsmen helped make the second night of protests in Ferguson much calmer than the first, when 12

additional troops standing watch over neighborhoods and businesses. Officers still used some tear gas and pepper spray, and demonstrators set a squad car on fire and broke windows at Ferguson's City Hall.

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon sent a large contingent of extra National Guardsmen, reserve troops that state governors can call up during emergencies. The governor ordered the initial force of 700 to be increased to 2,200.

There were 58 arrests overnight in Ferguson and St. Louis.

During an interview with ABC News, Wilson said he has a clean conscience because "I know I did my job right."

Wilson, 28, had been with the Ferguson police force for less than three years be-

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Obama administration sets stricter smog standard

DINA CAPPIELLO

JOSH LEDERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration took steps Wednesday to cut levels of smog-forming pollution linked to asthma, lung damage and other health problems, making good on one of President Barack Obama's original campaign promises while setting up a fresh confrontation with Republicans and the energy industry.

In a long-awaited announcement, the Environmental Protection Agency said it prefers a new, lower threshold for ozone pollution of 65 to 70 parts per billion, but said it would take public comments on an even lower standard of 60 parts per billion sought by environmental groups. The current standard is 75 parts per billion, put in place by President George W. Bush in 2008.

Meeting the stricter rules will cost industry about \$3.9 billion in 2025 if the government goes with a standard of 70 parts per billion, the EPA estimated. At a level of 65 parts per billion, the EPA

said, the cost grows to \$15 billion. But industry groups said the cost would actually be far higher and that it would be nearly impossible for refineries and other businesses to comply.

Pushing back on criticism that new regulations will damage the economy, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said lower ozone standards would actually spur more businesses, investment and jobs by making communities healthier. She said states would be given time to carefully design plans to meet the new standard over the coming decades.

"We have had a lot of recent improvement in air quality in general. The amount of lift this will take is certainly less" than previous ozone standards, McCarthy said. "We've done it before, and we're on track to do it again."

Business groups like the National Association of Manufacturers painted the government's move as a roadblock that threatens to jeopardize manufacturing's comeback in the U.S. They accused the adminis-



Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington. Inhofe, who will take over the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in January, said, that a stricter standard on smog-forming pollution allowed in the air "will lower our nation's economic competitiveness and stifle job creation for decades." He vowed "vigorous oversight" of the proposal in his new position. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

tration of moving the goalposts, since states are still working to implement the previous standard put in

place in 2008. "Tightening these standards could be the most expensive regulation ever imposed on the

American public, with potentially enormous costs to the economy, jobs, and consumers," said Jack Gerard, president of the American Petroleum Institute.

Sen. James Inhofe who is to take over the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in January, vowed "vigorous oversight" of the proposal in his new position. Under the Obama administration, the EPA has issued or proposed the first regulations to control heat-trapping carbon dioxide, mercury and air toxins from power plants. The administration also has doubled fuel-efficiency standards for cars and trucks and clamped down on industrial pollution that blows downwind and contaminates other states. □

AP: Police identify officers involved in Ohio shooting

MARK GILLISPIE

Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — A 12-year-old boy carrying a pellet gun that looked like a real firearm was ordered three times to show his hands before he was fatally shot by an officer, Cleveland police said Wednesday as they released surveillance video of the shooting and identified the officers involved.

The boy was shot within two seconds of the cruiser pulling up next to him, according to the surveillance video, which is silent and shows the shooting in stuttering images.

Police said it was being released as requested by the family of the boy, Tamir Rice. They also released audio of an emergency call reporting a gun and a dispatcher directing officers to the scene.

"This is not an effort to exonerate. It's not an effort to show the public that anybody did anything wrong," Deputy Chief Edward Tomba said. "This is an obvious tragic event where a young member of our community lost their life. We've got two officers that were out there protecting the public that just had to, you know, do something that nobody wants to do."

Tomba refused to comment on what the officers said in their statements, including whether Tamir made any comments to them.

Police identified the responding officers as 26-year-old Timothy Loehmann, who was appointed to the force this year and was identified as the officer who fired on Tamir, and 46-year-old Frank Garmback, who's been with the department since 2008. □

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In this Nov. 18, 2014, photo, a researcher simulates a check done for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System or NICS, at the FBI's criminal justice center in Bridgeport, W.Va. NICS did about 58,000 checks on a typical day in 2013. That surged to 145,000 on Black Friday.

(AP Photo/Matt Stroud)

Holiday gun buys test NICS system

MATT STROUD

Associated Press

BRIDGEPORT, West Virginia

(AP) — The day after Thursday's U.S. Thanksgiving holiday is one of the busiest days of the year for gun purchases. In the U.S., there are nine guns for every 10 people. Someone is killed with a firearm every 16 minutes. And every minute, gun shops make about 40 new requests for criminal background checks on people wanting weapons. On the Friday after Thanksgiving —traditionally the first shopping day of the holiday season, the rush accelerates to nearly two checks a second, testing the limits of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

"We have a perfect storm coming," says Kimberly Del Greco, a manager in the FBI division that helps run the system, known as NICS. Much of the responsibility for preventing criminals and the mentally ill from buying guns is shouldered by about 500 men and

women who run the system from inside the FBI's criminal justice center, a gray office building with concrete walls and mirrored windows in West Virginia.

Granted a rare glimpse into the inner workings of the NICS, The Associated Press was able to see firsthand why 512 gun sales a day effectively beat the system last year. By federal law, NICS researchers must race against the clock: They have until the end of the third businessday following an attempted firearm purchase to determine whether or not a buyer is eligible. After that, buyers can legally get their guns, whether or not the check was completed.

This clock ran out more than 186,000 times last year.

NICS did about 58,000 checks on a typical day last year. That surged to 145,000 on the Friday after Thanksgiving in 2013. They're bringing in 100 more workers than usual for the post-Thanksgiving rush this year.

The call centers have no access to privileged information about buyers' backgrounds, and make no decisions. They just type in their name, address, birthdate, Social Security Number and other information into the system. On Black Fridays, the work can be grueling: One woman took a call that lasted four hours when a dealer phoned in the maximum 99 checks.

In the years since these background checks were required, about 71 percent have found no red flags and produced instant approvals. But ten factors can disqualify gun purchasers: a felony conviction, an arrest warrant, a documented drug problem or mental illness, undocumented immigration status, a dishonorable military discharge, a renunciation of U.S. citizenship, a restraining order, a history of domestic violence, or an indictment for any crime punishable by longer than one year of prison time. □

Obama's immigration moves disappoint some businesses

ERICA WERNER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pres-

ident Barack Obama's executive actions on immigration left out some of the business community's top priorities, disappointing business leaders who might have stepped up to defend his policies in the face of Republican attacks.

Months of lobbying by high-tech businesses failed to persuade the administration to make allotted but unused green cards granting permanent residency status available for foreign workers — probably the top item on the executive action agenda for business.

And the administration only partially answered pleas to increase the length of time foreign students can stay in the U.S. before or after graduating to work in their fields. The administration announced plans to expand the program at some point in the future, but it offered no details on timing or scope.

Business lobbyists contended that these and other "asks" were fairly modest to begin with, since all acknowledged that the big-ticket items on their agenda — such as increasing the number of high-tech visas available for foreign workers — could only be done by Congress.

Even so, they were deflated to find their priorities overlooked as Obama announced plans to curb deportations for 4.5 million people in the country illegally and make them eligible for work permits.

"We didn't ask for the moon to begin with.

There's just not an opportunity for the administration to deliver the moon for us — that's a congressional action," said Scott Corley, executive director of Compete America, which represents high-tech companies including Google, Intel and Microsoft.

"But we asked for some terrestrial things, things within reach, and we didn't see the detail we hoped for."

A White House spokesman didn't respond to requests for comment.

Democratic Rep. Zoe Lofgren, who represents the Silicon Valley, said Obama was constrained by the legal advice he received.

"There's what you want, and what's possible to do, and people do understand that what you might want him to do is constrained by the law," Lofgren said.

Lofgren had been among those saying Obama could take executive action to allow businesses to "recapture" permanent resident green cards that had been authorized by Congress but never issued. Obama can't issue green cards on his own, but business officials say that more than 200,000 that have already been authorized by Congress never have been distributed, and the administration could redistribute them. The administration did not take that step.

Instead, Obama directed the secretaries of the State and Homeland Security departments to come up with recommendations within 120 days to ensure that all the green card visas allotted by Congress get used. □

US Financial Front:

American consumer sentiment rises for 4th straight month



Customers shop at the Century 21 Department Store in Philadelphia. Greater optimism about income growth and future spending pushed U.S. consumer sentiment to a fresh 7-year high in November.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Greater optimism about income growth and future

spending pushed U.S. consumer sentiment to a fresh 7-year high in November.

The University of Michigan said Wednesday that its in-

US consumer spending up by 0.2 percent in October

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics

WASHINGTON (AP) —

U.S. consumers spent modestly more in October, but the small uptick suggests that they're still wary of buying too much ahead of the crucial holiday shopping season.

The Commerce Department said Wednesday that consumer spending rose 0.2 percent last month, while September was revised from a decline to a flat reading. Income grew 0.2 percent in October.

The U.S. economy has recorded solid growth over the last six months, yet consumers have restrained their spending amid ongoing worries about stagnant wages.

But with a steadily improving job market and falling gas prices, economists say American households are ready to shed their cautiousness.

The holidays will reveal if that's true. The National Retail Federation, a trade group, is forecasting that

holiday sales will rise 4.1 percent from last year. That would be the biggest gain in three years.

"We see no shortage of cash to finance robust spending; wage and salary income is up... and sooner or later, people will start to spend the gas price windfall," said Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics.

October's results reflected a 0.2 percent increase in spending on non-durable goods such as clothing and a 0.3 percent rise in spending on services such as utility payments and rent. Spending on durable goods such as autos fell 0.2 percent in October.

The small gains in spending and income left the saving rate unchanged at 5 percent of after-tax income.

Inflation remained a no-show, with a price gauge tied to spending rising by just 1.4 percent over the past months, well below the 2 percent target for inflation favored by the Federal Reserve.

dex of consumer sentiment rose to 88.8 in November from 86.9 in October. That's the highest since July 2007, five months before the Great Recession began.

The report adds to a mixed picture of U.S. consumers heading into the holiday shopping season. A separate measure of consumer confidence, released Tuesday by the Conference Board, fell sharply after reaching its own 7-year high last month. And Americans are spending at a sluggish pace despite a pickup in job creation this year.

Consumers are more optimistic that their incomes will increase, the Michigan survey found, but their expectations are modest:

Respondents expect their incomes will increase 1.1 percent over the next 12 months. That's the most in six years, though still not enough to keep up with inflation.

Yet the Michigan survey also found other positive signs. Consumers said they were more likely to spend on big-ticket items such as appliances and autos than at any time since the recession began. And Americans expect recent steady job gains to continue and the unemployment rate to decline further.

"Consumer confidence remains on a gradual uptrend," said Jim Baird, chief investment officer for Planete Moran Financial Advisers.

Thursday, November 27, 2014

Thanksgiving Menu

Appetizers

Sweet Pear and Blue Cheese Salad
Crispy mix greens served with sweet pear, blue cheese crumbles and dressed with honey orange dressing

Or

Creamy Pumpkin Cinnamon Soup
Garnish with caramelized onion

Pomegranate Sherbet
Refreshing Pomegranate sherbet served with a dash of champagne

Entrée

Slow Roasted Turkey and Marinated Grilled Flank Steak
House-made stuffing, sautéed seasonal veggies, candied mix fruits, traditional Turkey gravy accompanied by slide marinated grilled Flank steak served with Green salsa

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American Living:

Developers look to create underground NYC park

VERENA DOBNIK
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Visitors from around the world are drawn to New York City's High Line, an elevated park

meters) down to bedrock, turning the dank, subterranean space into a luminous, plant-filled oasis. The park would offer city residents a place of refuge

"Many people once fought to move out of the Lower East Side, and now, their grandkids are fighting to get in," says Mark Miller, an art gallery owner whose

says Dan Barasch, who specializes in promoting socially innovative applications of technology. He co-founded the non-profit Lowline project with

with the idea of this public space, so we put those two concepts together."

Barasch estimates it will take about five years before construction begins to transform the 1-acre (0.4-hectare) leftover from the past into a destination of the future.

First, he says the Lowline team of three, plus hundreds of volunteers, must tackle some technical challenges: exactly how to channel the natural sunlight from the collectors to the park below, using the latest optics. Then the best way must be found to position the sunlight so it allows plants to grow.

Several high-tech companies already have used such systems to funnel natural illumination to previously light-inaccessible areas.

"But you can't just cut the street open," says Barasch.

Community members had their own questions at a Lowline presentation held recently at the Tenement Museum, which celebrates the rich history of the Lower East Side. Some asked where the street-level entrances would be, how the space would be ventilated and what kinds of plants would be brought in.

The pioneer model for the Lowline is the High Line park on Manhattan's West Side. The 22-block aerial walkway on an abandoned freight route has galvanized a neighborhood where luxury condos, galleries and boutiques have all but pushed out the industrial grime of warehouses and manufacturing plants. □



This undated artist's rendering provided by The Lowline shows a deep underground park that could be created in a 116-year-old abandoned trolley terminal below the Lower East Side. For this project-in-the-works, the latest solar technology will illuminate the subterranean space, filtering the sun via a collector at street level.

(AP Photo/The Lowline)

built on defunct railroad tracks transformed into an urban sanctuary of flowers, grasses and trees.

Private planners inspired by the High Line's success are now looking deep under Manhattan at a proposal to create the Lowline, billed as the world's first underground park.

The project would occupy a 116-year-old abandoned trolley terminal below the Lower East Side that's been used for storage since 1948. Street-level solar collectors would be used to filter the sun about 20 feet (six

and host art exhibits, music performances, readings and children's activities.

The Lowline is only one part of a Lower East Side revitalization project.

The neighborhood has an important place in the history of immigration. At the turn of the last century, newly arriving Italian, Irish, and German families made their first homes in America in its tenements. So many Jewish families settled in the neighborhood that it has been called "the American-Jewish Plymouth Rock."

family ran businesses there since the late 19th century. "It's come full circle; it's hip, happening and historic."

The planners — New York residents who've worked or lived in the area — say they're not erasing the legacy of Orchard, Delancey and Rivington streets, once home to the likes of Irving Berlin, George Burns, Jimmy Cagney, Zero Mostel and Lucky Luciano.

"We're simply taking over a space no one was using in a densely populated neighborhood that lacks sufficient public space,"

architect James Ramsey, a former NASA engineer. The park is expected to cost about \$60 million in mostly private funds, plus some government money. More than \$1 million has been raised for research and design. Ramsey and Barasch got the idea for the project when they heard about the site that was once a trolley turnaround for the line that ran across the Williamsburg Bridge to Brooklyn.

"We'd already been playing with new solar technology," Barasch said. "And we fell more and more in love

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European Union proposes \$380B investment plan

RAF CASERT
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union's executive has proposed a plan to boost investment in the bloc's flagging economy by 315 billion euros (\$380 billion) by attracting reluctant private investors with guarantees and seed money. Experts warn, however, it alone will not be enough to restart growth. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said Wednesday that the long-awaited plan will use 21 billion euros in money from EU institutions to entice spending on projects in education, transport, the digital economy and the environment. Juncker estimated that every euro invested in the three-year scheme could attract private and public investment of about 15 euros. The Commission said the plan would create up to 1.3 million jobs to help alleviate high unemployment, which has been hovering around record rates in the EU since the financial crisis. "We are offering hope to millions of Europeans disillusioned

after years of stagnation," Juncker told the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France. Europe's economy has been struggling to grow since it emerged from recession over a year ago, partly because many

Juncker hopes to do just that with what he called "a grand bargain to put Europe back to work." Many independent experts, however, called it too little to achieve so much. "Whether that is enough to

seen something bigger." Adalbert Winkler, a professor at the Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, said the program would satisfy those who oppose more government deficit spending but did

He said financially solid countries such as Germany could spend more and finance themselves at current very low interest rates. German officials, however, have focused instead on balancing their budget. Reactions from social organizations to the employers' federation underscored skepticism about the program's size. "Its success will depend on more ambitious steps to follow," said BusinessEurope President Emma Marcegaglia. The proposal will be discussed by the 28 EU leaders at the Dec. 18-19 summit. Under the plan, a European Fund for Strategic Investments will rely on 21 billion euros (\$26.5 billion) in guarantees from the EU budget and the European Investment Bank. It will be used to offer loans worth over 60 billion euros (\$75 billion) to stimulate investments of at least 315 billion euros. Juncker said the fund was necessary to jump start Europe's economic engine, since investors on the continent are wracked by uncertainty. □



European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker speaks in Europe. The European Union's executive has proposed a plan to boost investment in the bloc's flagging economy by 315 billion euros (\$380 billion) by attracting reluctant private investors with guarantees and seed money. (AP Photo/Virginia Mayo)

governments are still cutting back on spending to reduce debt. The European Central Bank has offered economic stimulus, but says it can only do so much, and that investment needs to pick up.

create a complete turning point, I very much doubt it," said Fabian Zuleeg, the chief executive of the European Policy Centre think tank. "There is not enough new it in. It is not ambitious enough, so we should have

not get to the root of Europe's stagnation. "We need more demand from government spending from those governments that have both the means and the credibility to do so," Winkler said.

Sierra Leone official: Ebola may have reached peak

C. MACAULAY
PAUL SCHEMM
Associated Press

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) — The Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone, which has been surging in recent weeks, may have reached its peak and could be on the verge of slowing down, Sierra Leone's information minister said Wednesday. But in a reminder of how serious the situation is in Sierra Leone, yet another doctor — the 9th in the country — became infected Wednesday, and the

World Health Organization said the country accounted for more than half of the new cases in the hardest-hit countries in the past week. By contrast, infections appear to be either stabilizing or declining in Guinea and Liberia, where vigorous campaigning for a Senate election this week suggests the disease might be loosening its grip. In all, 15,935 people have been sickened with Ebola in West Africa and other places it has occasionally popped up. Of those,

5,689 have died. The disease is transmitted through contact with bodily fluids of the sick, putting health workers at particular risk. Dr. Songo Mbrwa, a top military doctor who was working at a treatment center in the capital, tested positive for Ebola on Wednesday, according to Abass Kamara, a Health Ministry spokesman. Nearly 600 health workers have become infected in the West African outbreak, many in the hardest-hit countries of Guinea, Liberia

and Sierra Leone — all of which had too few to begin with. Still, Alpha Kanu, Sierra Leone's minister of information, told journalists in an online press conference that with the imminent completion of two British-built treatment centers, the worst could be over for the country. "We believe that now that those treatment centers are ready, the transmission of new cases will start reducing," he said. "I don't think we can get any higher than we are now — we are at the

plateau of the curve and very soon we will have a downward trend, once we have somewhere to take people." Nearly 1,000 British soldiers, scientists and aid workers are already in the country participating in the Ebola fight and the completion of the latest treatment centers will increase the number built to six. Sierra Leone has nearly 6,600 of the reported Ebola cases, with about 1,400 deaths, and the infections are increasing swiftly here. □

Hong Kong police arrest key protesters, clear site

KELVIN CHAN
Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Police arrested key student leaders as they cleared the most volatile of Hong Kong's three pro-democracy protest camps on Wednesday, dealing a blow to the 2-month-old movement in the former British colony.

On the second day of the operation, police in helmets swiftly removed metal barricades, tents, canopies and other obstructions in Mong Kok, a crowded, blue-collar neighborhood that has been the flash point of earlier clashes.

Two other protest zones remain in place: a sprawling main camp next to government headquarters on the edge of the financial district and a smaller site in the Causeway Bay shopping district.

Protesters scattered and traffic started flowing on Nathan Road after the clearance operation finished up by mid-afternoon. But large crowds returned to the area hours later, met by police preventing them from trying to retake the street.

Mong Kok has been home to a more raucous and aggressive group of protesters than at the two other sites. Previous efforts to clear the area have backfired, sending more people into the streets in the evening to confront police. Police spokesman Steve

Hui said a total of 148 people were arrested, including 55 for contempt of court and obstructing officers carrying out the court-ordered barricade removals over two days. In chaotic pepper spray-fueled clashes that ensued after Tuesday's barricade removal, police arrested 93 more for resisting arrest,

of the Hong Kong Federation of Students. The two groups have played important roles in organizing the protest movement.

"After the clearance operation we don't have a leader," said protester Ken Lee, 19, who quit his job at a restaurant in October after the protests erupted and spent his days in Mong

to use a panel of Beijing-friendly elites to screen candidates for the territory's top leader in inaugural 2017 elections. The arrest of the popular student leaders could reinvigorate the protest movement, which has been losing steam as the Hong Kong government's apparent strategy of waiting out the protest-



Protesters cry as the police officers try to stop them blocking the road in Mong Kok district of Hong Kong Wednesday Nov. 26, 2014. Police arrested key student leaders of Hong Kong's pro-democracy protests on Wednesday as they cleared barricades in one volatile district, throwing into doubt the future of a 2-month-old movement seeking free elections in the former British colony.
(AP Photo/Kin Cheung)

disorderly conduct, unlawful assembly and possessing offensive weapons. Among those arrested Wednesday were protest leaders Joshua Wong, the 18-year-old head of the Scholarism group, and 21-year-old Lester Shum, deputy secretary general

Kok. "It all depends on what happens tonight, if the majority of the people want to reoccupy the area or go to another location." The protesters are demanding that Hong Kong's government scrap a plan mandated by China's Communist leaders

ers left them with few options.

Organizers estimated that as many as 200,000 people took to the semiautonomous Chinese city's streets at the start of the protests, but numbers have since dwindled sharply, along with public support. □

Activists raise Raqqa strikes' dead up to 95

BEIRUT (AP) — The death toll from a series of Syrian government airstrikes on the Islamic State group's stronghold in northeastern Syria has risen to at least 95, making it one of the deadliest attacks on the city of Raqqa in the past three years, activists said Wednesday.

Some of the Tuesday airstrikes hit a popular market near a museum and an industrial neighborhood, causing many civilian casualties.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights raised its death toll Wednesday to 95. Its director, Rami Abdulrahman, said the dead include 52 civilians whose names the group was able to document. They include three women and four children, he said. At least 120 others were wounded in the strikes, according to the group.

Other activists, including the Local Coordination Committees and a Raqqa-based collective called Raqqa is Being Silently Slaughtered, estimated more than 100 people had been killed. It was not clear how many militants were among those killed.

The Associated Press could not independently confirm the death toll — one of the worst single-day tolls in the city, which is completely under the control of the Islamic State group.

The Syrian government as well as the U.S.-led coalition frequently bomb Islamic State group targets in Raqqa, but it was not immediately clear what prompted Tuesday's unusually intense attacks. The Islamic State group has slaughtered hundreds of Syrian soldiers in the past few months, and recently posted a video showing what it said was the beheading of more than a dozen Syrian soldiers, including officers.

In Iraq, security forces backed by Sunni tribesmen repelled an assault by IS militants on a government complex in the center of Ramadi, the provincial capital of western Anbar province, said officials. □

NATO sees Russia ready for Ukraine incursion

PETER LEONARD
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia still has enough troops along Ukraine's border to mount a major incursion, NATO's top commander said Wednesday, and Moscow is using its military might to affect political developments inside Ukraine. U.S. Gen. Philip Breedlove said a large number of Russian troops are also active inside Ukraine, training and advising separatist rebels. Moscow has routinely denied it played any direct role in the conflict in Ukraine, which has claimed

more than 4,000 lives. Breedlove spoke during a brief visit to Kiev, where he met with top officials to discuss continued NATO assistance for Ukraine in its fight against Russian-backed separatists in the east. "We are going to help Ukraine's military to increase its capacities and capabilities through interaction with U.S. and European command," he said, adding that it "will make them ever more interoperable with our forces."

Ukraine has received multiple pledges of military support from Western nations,

but has been frustrated by Washington's reluctance to promise any lethal equipment. But a senior aide to President Barack Obama said last week that he believes the U.S. should consider giving lethal defensive equipment to Ukraine.

Tony Blinken, deputy U.S. national security adviser, said he believed Washington ought to consider strengthening Ukrainian forces as a message to Moscow. Providing defensive military equipment to Ukraine has broad support in the U.S. Congress.

The Ukrainian armed advance against rebel forces ground to a halt and was substantially reversed over the summer as government troops found themselves faced by a well-equipped and determined foe.

"This international border is completely wide open and maintained open by Russian forces, so that forces, supplies, money, fighters can move across at will," Breedlove said.

A truce was agreed in early September but fighting continues daily in several areas of eastern Ukraine. □



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Black Friday shopping catches on like fire in Britain

PAN PYLAS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Halloween and Mother's Day have become staples of the U.K. shopping calendar. Now Black Friday looks as though it may be the next big retail import from the United States.

Shopping on the day after Thanksgiving is becoming a thing in Britain, too, thanks mainly to the marketing efforts of major retailers.

Online seller Amazon is widely perceived to have first introduced Black Friday deals to the U.K. in 2010. A steady slew of retailers joined the fray each year, with a significant jump in 2013, when the Asda supermarket chain, owned by Walmart, embraced the event.

This year, it's gotten even bigger and Black Friday looks to have cemented its place in the U.K. calendar. People are talking about it and promotions are being aired across the media.

"It's been building for a few years, a lot of retailers have planned their Black Friday strategies and consumers seem to be ready for it," said Patrick O'Brien, retail analyst at Verdict Research.

The Friday after Thanksgiving has for decades been the biggest shopping day in the U.S. as millions of Americans go in search of bargains and the countdown to Christmas begins in earnest. One of the most common origins of the day's name is that U.S. retailers traditionally turned a profit on Black Friday.

Given its link to Thanksgiving, it was a particularly U.S. event.

That is changing, though, primarily in the U.K., which shares many of the retailing customs and traditions of

the U.S., in a way that other European countries, such as France and Germany, don't.

According to Verdict, retailers' heavy investment in Black Friday promotions looks set to pay off as awareness of the U.S. retail event reaches an all-time high in the U.K. In its online consumer survey of 10,000 U.K. shoppers, Verdict found that 47 percent of the U.K.'s shoppers say they will participate in the event. It also found that 61 percent of women expect to make a purchase.

Many of the U.K.'s leading retailing brand names are planning promotions on Friday. Some, such as supermarket chain Sainsbury's, are getting involved for the first time. Videogame seller Game is promising "stunning deals and offers that'll be too hard to resist," and is opening stores the moment the clocks strike midnight Friday.

According to a survey of firms that sell both online and in-store commissioned by Barclays, one of the country's biggest banks, 65 percent of retailers are planning Black Friday promotions, and 69 percent expect the popularity of Black Friday promotions to gain traction in years ahead.

This is a big change in the U.K.'s shopping habits in the busiest time of the year. Usually in the U.K., the day after Christmas is when retailers make the big promotions.

Boxing Day, as it is known, is when your average turkey-stuffed Briton goes in search of bargains.

In these penny-pinched times following years of austerity — and the prospect of many more to come — it's unsurprising



This is a Friday, Nov. 29, 2013 file photo of shoppers at the entrance to Asda supermarket store in West Belfast, Northern Ireland after at least one person was injured and taken to hospital from the store earlier Friday, as shoppers rushed to get their hands on sale deals for their Black Friday event.

(AP Photo/Peter Morrison)

that consumers are on the lookout for bargains in the run-up to Christmas.

Visa Europe thinks the U.K.'s "love affair" with online shopping will reach a new high this Friday and is predicting that 518 million pounds (\$813 million) will be spent on its cards, which would make it the biggest day in Visa's e-commerce history in the U.K.

"This year is also likely to see continued growth in shopping via tablets and smartphones, with commuters using the journey home to shop for their loved ones," said Kevin Jenkins, managing director at Visa Europe. The growth in online shopping through a variety of mechanisms is expected to continue in the months and years ahead.

But the change in the U.K.'s shopping habits is unlikely to be a game-changer for retailers, who have spent much of the past few years dealing with the fallout from the financial crisis. Prices have generally risen faster than wages and consumers have sought to reduce their debts and make sure their rainy-day funds don't get frittered away. □

Thanksgiving Menu

on November 27th 2014

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Colombia exhumes murdered guerrilla leader

LIBARDO CARDONA

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) —

Colombia is digging up the remains of a former guerrilla leader who was assassinated 25 years ago while running for president in one of the most emblematic crimes committed during a wave of terror against leftist activists.

Carlos Pizarro was killed

when an assailant opened fire with a machine gun inside a crowded airliner in midflight.

Authorities on Wednesday dug up Pizarro's remains and those of his assailant to resolve one of the crime's nagging doubts: whether bodyguards assigned by the state to protect the politician also had a hand in his murder.

"There's evidence in the case that doesn't add up," Maria Jose Pizarro, the slain politician's daughter, told The Associated Press as forensic specialists removed the marble tombstone covering the remains in Bogota's Central Cemetery. "It suggests there's a campaign to stop any progress from being made in the investigation."

The former M-19 rebel leader was the third candidate killed during the 1990 presidential race. At the time, leftists and anti-corruption crusaders were being hounded by right-wing paramilitaries aligned with powerful drug cartels. Evidence that has surfaced in other high-profile crimes from the dark era suggest that corrupt state

agents were frequently active participants in the dirty war.

"There's lots of questions about how the weapon got on board and if the only shots that were fired came from the assassin," said Sergio Reyes Blanco, a representative from Inspector General's office who is investigating the murder. □

Mexico's left faces problems as leader resigns

EDUARDO CASTILLO

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) —

Mexico's left faces huge problems following the resignation of former presidential candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, a pillar of progressive politics and son of the revered president who nationalized the oil industry.

In 1989, Cardenas founded the Democratic Revolution Party, known as the PRD. On Wednesday he said he is not only leaving the PRD, but party politics entirely.

"I think that, with this, my life in a party is over ... I'm not going to any other political party," Cardenas told the Radio Formula station, adding that he would continue to work on his favorite cause, reversing recent government reforms that opened the state-run oil sector to private investment and concessions.

Cardenas was central to the very foundation of the party, which was born out of a political coalition that formed to support his 1988 presidential campaign in an attempt to topple the

party that had then ruled Mexico for nearly 60 years. Millions of Mexicans believe he won that election,

dential candidate, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, quit to form a new leftist party. "On one hand, (the

Mexico Center at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy.

Cardenas is inextricably

vious generations but now seemed somewhat dated.

"This makes him in reality a conservative figure, a figure who defends the 'status quo' from before," Payan said. "That was no longer sustainable, anywhere in the world."

The PRD had earned the wrath of Cardenas and others by appearing too willing to collaborate with President Enrique Pena Nieto on some of his reforms, though not the oil-sector opening. But the PRD's worst failure came when it allowed Jose Luis Abarca to run for mayor of the southern city of Iguala, in Guerrero state, on the PRD ticket. Abarca was, in fact, aligned with a local drug gang and allegedly ordered the kidnapping of 43 students from a local teachers college. The drug gang then allegedly killed the students and incinerated their remains.

PRD party leader Carlos Navarrete has apologized for that decision, but it has kept the party on the sidelines of the biggest cause for Mexico's left in years. □



Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, the son of the late President Lazaro Cardenas who nationalized Mexico's oil industry in 1938, speaks during a march against the energy reform bill at the Angel of Independence monument in Mexico City. A pillar of leftist politics in Mexico and son of a revered former president, Cardenas, has resigned Nov. 25, 2014, from the party he founded in a dispute with its leadership. (AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)

but was cheated by fraud. Cardenas also was by far the most widely respected figure to remain in the PRD after another former presi-

loss of Cardenas) is a blow to the party; on the other hand, it frees it" to become a more modern left, said Tony Payan, director of the

linked to his father Lazaro Cardenas and the old style of nationalist politics and state-run enterprises, something that had inspired pre-

Brazil state must pay family in police slaying

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) —

Rio de Janeiro state must provide financial support to the family of a laborer whose disappearance in police custody last year became a cause celebre and a symbol of endemic police brutality, a Brazilian court has ruled.

In a unanimous decision, a panel of Rio civil court judges ordered the state to pay for psychologi-

cal treatments as well as monthly stipends for the family of Amarildo de Souza, whose July 2013 disappearance sparked widespread anger and protests here.

Souza was last seen being taken to a police station in the Rocinha slum, and his body has never been found. While police initially insisted Souza walked out of the station, investigators

allege he died while being tortured by police, who later spirited his body out and dumped it. More than two dozen officers have been charged with torture and forming a gang, among other charges.

In a statement released Tuesday, the court quoted a judge in the case as saying the officers' actions deprived the family of their income. The deci-

sion stipulates that Souza's widow and six other family members each receive payments equal to the country's \$289 monthly minimum wage. The state must also foot the family members' medical and mental health bills.

Another Rio court had postponed a decision on whether the family was entitled to financial help, and the Souzas' appeal result-

ed in the Nov. 11 decision. Brazil's police force has long had a tainted reputation, with law enforcement-related killings numbering in the hundreds every year in Rio state alone. Officers are commonly accused of shaking down people to boost their meager salaries and forming armed militias as brutal as the drug trafficking gangs they're supposed to combat. □



Aruba Says 'Masha Danki' to Group of Loyal Visitors



EAGLE BEACH - Recently Aruba Tourism Authority honored Goodwill Ambassadors at the Aruba Beach Club. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name

of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. All the honorees are members of the Aruba Beach

Club and have been enjoying the island every year. The honorees are Salvatore and Carmela Coraci, Salvatore and Maryann Musumeci, and William and Randi Barner.

The certificates were presented by Mr. Ricardo Croes representing Aruba Tourism Authority together with friends and family who conducted the ceremony held at the Aruba Beach

Club. Top reasons for returning provided by the honorees were the Fantastic Sunset, Beautiful Blue Ocean, Friendly Aruban Hospitality and the Local Restaurants. □

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This upcoming Friday; hooray!

Starbucks Renaissance Marketplace Celebrates 5th Anniversary



ORANJESTAD – November – It's already been 5 years since Starbucks came to Aruba and 'brewed' things up. It changed Aruba's 'coffee drinking habit' forever. The first Starbucks establishment was opened in 2009 in Renaissance Mar-

ketplace and in no time it became the number one spot to socialize, attend meetings or relax after a long day of work. Therefore the 5th year anniversary cannot go unnoticed. Starbucks Celebration: During the celebration



day, November 28, all warm and cold Starbucks drinks will be available for only \$5. Starbucks fans can enjoy their all time favorites at a special prize during the whole day. A celebration party equals cake; Starbucks will have

a delicious 5 storey cake for all customers. As of 6pm live entertainment by Angelo Koolman who will surely get the party going. Starbucks Selfie Campaign: Besides this, Starbucks invites all customers to take pictures with the popular 'Starbucks Cup' at Renaissance Mall during the week of December 1st - December 7th, at Paseo

Herencia during the week of December 8th - December 14th and at Renaissance Marketplace during December 15th - December 21st. Every week a winner who gets a breakfast for two at Starbucks. Starbucks Xmas Gift Certificates are already available. Stay tuned for Starbucks weekly offers starting December 2nd. □



Vitaly and Alla Honored at the Divi Phoenix Resort



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple as Distinguished Visitors at the Aruba Divi Phoenix. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tour-

ism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Vitaly and Mrs. Alla Lekarev from New Jersey. Vitaly and Alla are loyal members of the Aruba Divi Phoenix and they

love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, the stunning view of their room and Aruba feels like a second home, the people are like a family to them and the Divi Phoenix is their home away

from home. This year they brought 2 of their grandsons with them on this trip. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mr. Carlos Werleman representing the Divi Phoenix.

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PALM BEACH - "Lionfish are staking claim on our Pristine Reefs" explains Marine Biologist, Byron Boekhoudt. The brightly colored Lionfish are attracting our juvenile fish who curiously swim directly towards the predatory fish and BAM - our fish are getting gobbled up. "We need our fish to graze the reefs to the keep the reef healthy and it's becoming a big problem", Boekhoudt explains. The indigenous Indo-Pacific Lionfish has proven to be a super predator eating anything its path. With no known ocean enemy, the Lionfish are staking claim on our pristine reefs. Spawning more than 20,000 eggs every four days- the fish with its voracious appetite for whatever it can fit in its large mouth is gluttonous. The Lionfish over-population in Aruba continues to be challenge to Lionfish Hunters who voluntarily spear

up each spiny menace one at time. The Lionfish Hunters are making a difference with each fish they spear. Lionfish Hunters want you to know that Lionfish are healthy to eat and delicious too! Lionfish is a very tasty, firm white fish with a higher concentration of heart-healthy Omega-3 fatty acids. Scoring more health benefits than Red Snapper, Grouper, Mahi Mahi and Wahoo, "Lionfish can be considered the Salmon of Coral Reefs", explains Lionfish Hunter / Captain Tuy of Go Get Em Fishing Charters. Make Lionfish Tonight's Dinner Special - From Menace Fish to a Tasty Dish! Support your Restaurants who serve Lionfish. Request this new delicacy at your favorite Seafood Restaurants. Lionfish recipes include everything from ceviches, fritters, tacos, battered or simply pan-fried

with lemon, Lionfish sushi can also be enjoyed in Aruba. You can help to Create Awareness - Save the Date! November 30, 2014 Fundraiser from 6pm - 8pm. We can Beat them by Eating Them: Aruba Marine Park Foundation is hosting a lively sunset happy hour fundraiser at Nos Clubhuis, upstairs from Hadicurari Restaurant which will offer guests lionfish and lovely wine pairings courtesy of Romar Trading. Co-host to the event, Aruba Wine and Dine Chefs will circulate to discuss and share their tasty dishes and Lionfish recipes. Tickets are only Awg 50 and will help develop more awareness programs for the predatory Lionfish. Tickets for the Marine Water Park Event on Nov 30 can be purchased at the Jolly Pirates Gift Shop. Please call 592-7858 for more Party Information. □

Lionfish Creole Sauce "Mami's Style"

From Chef Byron Boekhoudt
Serves four

INGREDIENTS:
 1 cup water
 4 teaspoons Canola Oil
 1 large onion
 1 large tomato
 1 large green pepper
 a handful of Basil (yerba di hole) leaves
 1 knorr bouillon (any type)
 Tomato paste to taste

Dice all the vegetables into little cubes
 Simmer them in a small pan with oil till they become soft. Pour in the water slowly
 Dissolve the block of bouillon, mix in the tomato paste and basil.
 Let it simmer (smoor) a little bit and it is ready to pour on the fried lionfish.
 Serve with plantains





Washington Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III (10) walks on the sideline during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game against the San Francisco 49ers in Santa Clara, Calif., Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014.

Associated Press

RG3 benched: Redskins to start Colt McCoy vs. Indy

By JOSEPH WHITE

AP Sports Writer
ASHBURN, Va. (AP) -- Robert Griffin III mingled in the locker room and made small talk about shoes and food.

No sense talking about football, not when a player who once could do no wrong has been benched for the second time in two years.

The Redskins will start Colt McCoy over Griffin on Sunday against the Indianapolis Colts, the latest development in a stunning tailspin for the 2012 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year. First-year coach Jay Gruden said McCoy will be given "every opportunity" to hold the job for the final five games of the season. "We're searching for answers on offense," Gruden said. "And it starts at the quarterback position, quite frankly."

Continued on Next Page



HOT CURRY

Curry has 40 as
Warriors extend
streak to 6

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) shoots over Miami Heat forward Udonis Haslem (40) in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2014, in Miami. Golden State defeated the Heat 114-97.

Associated Press
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RG3

Continued from Page 17

Now it's a question as to whether RG3 is done for good in Washington, and whether he'll develop the skills necessary to succeed as a pocket-passer in the NFL.

The Redskins (3-8) are 0-3 since he returned from an ankle injury and have scored only one touchdown in each of the past two games.

The former No. 2 overall draft pick seemed poised to revolutionize the quarterback position with his arm and legs when he led Washington to the playoffs two years ago, but he is 4-14 as a starter since the start of the 2013 season and has struggled to adjust his game.

"We just want him to take a step back, work on his craft a little bit more, study the game a little bit more," Gruden said.

Griffin will serve as the No. 2 quarterback on Sunday. Although he chatted



Washington Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III, left, is sacked by San Francisco 49ers defensive tackle Ray McDonald during the first quarter of an NFL football game in Santa Clara, Calif., Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014.

Associated Press

informally with reporters Wednesday, he made no comment about Gruden's decision.

The Redskins have not permitted Griffin to speak publicly at various times this season, but a team spokes-

man said it was Griffin's decision to remain silent this time.

Gruden has had plenty to say, much of it quite candid, about Griffin's development. The coach was particularly brutal a week

ago, citing "fundamental flaws" after an abysmal performance in a 20-point loss to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Griffin followed that up by throwing for just 106 yards in a 17-13 defeat against the San Francisco.

This is the fourth quarterback change made by Gruden this year. The coach called it a "merry-go-around," but it's almost par for the course for the Redskins, who have used 24 starters since 1993. The lack of continuity has its price - they've missed the playoffs in 18 of those 22 seasons.

And now they might have to start over yet again at the sport's most important position. They gave up three first-round picks in order to move up and select Griffin in the 2012 draft, a trade that had serious ramifications because it kept Washington from filling other vital needs in subsequent drafts.

The team will have to decide in the upcoming off-

season whether to pick up a fifth-year option on Griffin's contract. That now seems unlikely, but Gruden nevertheless said he hasn't given up on the 24-year-old QB.

"For Robert to take a step back and be a backup quarterback is not the end of the world," Gruden said. "It's happened to great quarterbacks in the past. It will happen again. ... Doesn't mean he's not going to be a great quarterback one day, here or somewhere else or whatever."

The timing is particularly humiliating for Griffin because it comes as the Redskins are preparing to face the Colts and Andrew Luck, who was the No. 1 overall draft pick ahead of Griffin. The two will always be compared, but their paths have diverged incredibly since their rookie season. Griffin was benched for the final three games last year as the season spiraled to a 3-13 finish under then-coach Mike Shanahan. □

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NBA Capsules

Curry powers Warriors past Heat 114-97

MIAMI (AP) — Stephen Curry scored 40 points to help and the Golden State Warriors beat the Miami Heat 114-97 on Tuesday night for their sixth consecutive victory.

Golden State scored 14 straight points to open a 107-95 lead with 2:50 to go. Curry and Thompson capped the run with consecutive 3-pointers.

Thompson had 24 points for the Warriors, who shot 57 percent. Curry was 12 for 19 from the field, including an 8-for-11 performance from 3-point range.

Chris Bosh scored 26 points for Miami, and Luol Deng had 16. James Ennis' dunk with 9:11 left was the Heat's last field goal.

NUGGETS 114, BULLS 109

DENVER (AP) — Ty Lawson scored 20 points, including a key jumper in the waning seconds, as Denver earned its fifth straight win. Arron Afflalo added 19 points and Danilo Gallinari had 15 for the Nuggets, who defeated the Bulls for the eighth straight time in Denver.

Bulls point guard Derrick Rose was limited to 10 minutes in his second game back from a left hamstring strain. Rose, who scored 18 points in his return Monday night against Utah after a four-game absence, felt tightness in the hamstring during the first quarter and didn't play the rest of the way.

Jimmy Butler had 32 points for Chicago, and Pau Gasol finished with 22 points and 11 rebounds.

HAWKS 106, WIZARDS 102

WASHINGTON (AP) — Re-

serves Mike Scott and Shelvin Mack led a fourth-quarter surge for the Hawks.

Scott and Mack scored Atlanta's first 16 points of the final period, sparking a 22-5 run that built a 14-point lead before the Wizards hit a spate of 3-pointers to make the final score close. Scott finished with 17 points in 23 minutes, and Mack had 13 in 19 for the Hawks, who have won six of eight. Jeff Teague scored 28 points, and Paul Millsap had 17 points and 11 rebounds for Atlanta.

John Wall had 21 points and 13 assists, and Marcin Gortat had 12 points and 11 rebounds for the Wizards, who committed a season-high 25 turnovers.

KINGS 99, PELICANS 89

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — DeMarcus Cousins had 22 points, 12 rebounds, five assists and three steals, leading the Kings to their third straight win.

Omri Casspi also scored 22 for Sacramento. Casspi, who made his first start of the season in place of the injured Rudy Gay, was with New Orleans for a brief stretch this offseason before being released in a salary-cap move.

New Orleans forward Anthony Davis was held to 14 points after he scored 28 in a victory over the Kings last Tuesday. He also had nine rebounds and blocked two shots.

Tyreke Evans had 22 points, seven rebounds and five assist for the Pelicans, who were 3 for 17 from 3-point range.

BUCKS 98, PISTONS 86

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Brandon Knight had 20 points and eight assists to spark the Bucks to the victory.

O.J. Mayo, making his first start of the season, added 17 points as Milwaukee (8-7) avoided its first three-



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) shoots as Miami Heat guard Shabazz Napier (13) defends in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2014, in Miami. Golden State defeated the Heat 114-97.

Associated Press

game slide of the season. Rookie Jabari Parker contributed 14 points and nine rebounds.

Detroit (3-11) has lost five in a row and eight of nine.

Andre Drummond had 23

points and 10 rebounds for the Pistons, and Greg Monroe added 15 points and eight boards. Drummond was averaging 8.7 points coming into the night, but shot 11 of 15 from the floor.

Spurs' Popovich undergoes minor medical procedure

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Spurs coach Gregg Popovich will miss Wednesday night's game against the Indiana Pacers after undergoing what the team is calling a minor medical procedure. Popovich also is expected to miss Friday's home game against Sacramento. Assistant Ettore Messina will run the team in Popovich's absence.

"It's not what you want, but the good thing is that obviously it's nothing big or you would not see me here so relaxed," Messina said.

Messina becomes the first

European-born coach to run an NBA team in the regular season. Referred by many as the "Coach Pop of Europe," Messina is in his first season with the Spurs after a successful international career.

"Obviously, he's an international basketball legend," Indiana coach Frank Vogel said. "I don't really know that much more about him other than he's highly, highly respected."

Messina is a two-time Euroleague coach of the year and also has coached in Russia, Italy and Spain. He

served as a coaching consultant for the Los Angeles Lakers in 2011-12.

"Everybody here tells me from Day One to feel very comfortable," Messina said of San Antonio.

In recent seasons, his name was raised as a candidate to become the first European coach to become a head coach in the NBA.

David Blatt beat him to it, coming over from Israel this year to coach the Cleveland Cavaliers. But Blatt is American born.

Messina coached the Spurs in a 121-90 preseason loss

to Phoenix on Oct. 16 when Popovich opted to stay at home.

"I am terribly scared," Messina said of his regular-season debut. "I am average scared. Not scared at all. You pick up the (one you want)."

"I'm trying to think what Pop would have said to you. I haven't thought about (being the first European-born coach in the NBA), honestly. You try to stay focused on what you have to do, that's it. There is already enough to think about."

Neal lifts Predators over Kings 4-3 in shootout

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)

— James Neal scored the only goal of a six-round shootout to give the Nashville Predators a 4-3 win over the Los Angeles Kings on Tuesday night.

Craig Smith, Ryan Ellis and Eric Nystrom scored in regulation for Nashville. In the shootout, Neal beat Martin Jones with a wrist shot between the pads.

Pekka Rinne made 18 saves in regulation and overtime, and then stopped all six Kings shooters in the tie-breaker.

Jamie McBain, Marian Gaborik, and Drew Dougherty scored for Los Angeles, which has lost two straight.

AVALANCHE 4, COYOTES 3, OT

GLENDAL, Arizona (AP)



Canucks, who have won three of four.

Cory Schneider stopped 34 shots, but the Devils lost for the fourth time in five games.

DUCKS 3, FLAMES 2

ANAHEIM, California (AP)

— Corey Perry, Matt Beleskey and Kyle Palmieri staked Anaheim to a big lead, and the Ducks held on for their 19th straight home victory against Calgary. The Flames haven't won in Anaheim since Jan. 19, 2004. Only three players who played for Calgary in that game are active in the NHL.

Jonas Hiller, who spent his first seven NHL seasons with Anaheim before signing with Calgary in July, stopped 29 shots in his return. The Flames, coming off a 4-1 homestand that included shootout wins over the Ducks and New Jersey Devils, spoiled Frederik Andersen's shutout bid with 8:58 remaining when T.J. Brodie beat him with a screened slap shot.

Jiri Hudler made it 3-2 with 25.4 seconds to play after Hiller was pulled for an extra skater.

Andersen made 32 saves.

SENATORS 3, BLUES 2, SO

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Erik Condra and Alex Chiasson scored third-period goals for Ottawa.

The Senators, who had lost three of four and six of eight, trailed by two goals. They were beaten at home by the Blues on Saturday.

The Blues, who lost No. 1 goalie Brian Elliott to a lower-body injury late in the second period, had won two straight and five of seven. They entered having allowed an NHL-best 2.0 goals per game behind the goalie tandem of Elliott and Jake Allen.

Elliott left with 6:02 remaining in the second after his right leg bent backward during a scramble in the crease. The puck went in the net, but the goal was waved off after a review.

JETS 4, BLUE JACKETS 2

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Evander Kane scored two power-play goals, and Winnipeg held on for the road win. □

As Colorado Avalanche's Matt Duchene (9) moves to the net to shoot the puck, Arizona Coyotes' Mike Smith, left, has the goal fall over on him as Coyotes' Keith Yandle (3) defends during overtime of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2014, in Glendale, Ariz. The Avalanche won 4-3.

Associated Press

— Daniel Briere scored 3:16 into overtime, helping the Avalanche complete a comeback from three goals down to get the road win.

Briere got help from the Coyotes' Martin Hanzal, who backhanded Briere's pass past his own goalie, Mike Smith.

Colorado (8-9-5) won for the fourth time in five games after a goalie change in the first period. Arizona (9-11-3) absorbed another late-game home loss. The Avalanche tied it at 3 when Matt Duchene's pass from behind the net went off the stick of Coyotes forward Lauri Korpikoski and squeezed past Smith at 4:05 of the third period.

CANUCKS 2, DEVILS 0

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Ryan Miller made 20 saves for his second shutout of the season, helping the Canucks beat New Jersey.

Alex Burrows and Shawn Matthias scored for the

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IPTL: New league offers a new look for tennis

C. RAJSHEKHAR RAO

AP Sports Writer

There's no rest for Roger. Back near the top of the rankings, and fresh from his long-awaited Davis Cup triumph with Switzerland, Roger Federer is getting ready for the International Premier Tennis League that gets under way on Friday. Joining Federer in the franchise-based, short-format competition will be the top-ranked players in men's and women's tennis, with Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams also signed up to play.

The IPTL will launch with a tournament at Manila this week. Singapore, New Delhi and Dubai are the other stops for the \$1 million event that runs till Dec. 13.

Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras are among the retired greats who'll feature in the tournament that will be contested by four teams — the Manila Mavericks, Singapore Slammers, Indian Aces and United Arab Emirates Royals.

"It is a revolutionary team tennis event breaking through the boundaries of traditional tennis formats," IPTL founder and

Switzerland's Roger Federer falls to the clay after defeating France's Richard Gasquet and winning the Davis Cup final between France and Switzerland at Stade Pierre Mauroy in Lille, northern France, Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014.

former doubles star Mahesh Bhupathi said ahead of the tournament, which he hopes to convert to an eight-team league by 2020.

"But we need to be sustainable and we don't want to be too aggressive — we want to make sure

that along the lines other people also see it as a viable business model."

The format includes men's and women's singles, men's doubles, mixed doubles and legends singles matches. Essentially, it's an exhibition with a competitive streak.

Each fixture will consist of five one-set matches, which could be decided by a four-minute shootout at 5-5 rather than a traditional tiebreaker.

There will be no advantage scores and the outcome will be decided by aggregating games won from all five matches rather than the match results.

There will also be 'power points' which will give players a chance to double up on a point in each match by nominated it before receiving serve. Other additions include time-outs.

Williams, who won the season-ending WTA title in Singapore last month, said "I'm looking forward to coming back to Singapore

and playing for the Singapore Slammers. I hope you'll ... enjoy a new format of tennis."

No. 9-ranked Marin Cilic said playing in Asia was part of the appeal.

"When I'm in Asia, I always have good experiences and I always feel welcome," Cilic said.

"Asian fans are very faithful and I appreciate that a lot."

Federer is an advocate of shorter formats in the game. He'll also be playing former No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt in another shortened, faster form of the game in Sydney ahead of the Australian Open.

Players fought long and hard for more time off to rest and recuperate between seasons, and the official off-season now extends for more than a month on the men's and women's tours.

So participation of the star players in the IPTL has raised some questions about scheduling and fa-

tigue management.

The 33-year-old Federer helped Switzerland clinch its first Davis Cup title last weekend in France, and the 17-time major winner will start his 2015 at the Brisbane International on Jan. 5, a key warm-up tournament to the Australian Open.

ATP president Chris Kermode last month described the IPTL as "just a series of glorified exhibitions."

"I actually don't have a problem with it," he told reporters in Shanghai. "It isn't the ATP's business what the players did

in the off-season, even if they criticize the duration of the tour and then jet away to play exhibition events when the curtain falls on the calendar."

The IPTL is another addition to a growing list of franchise-based leagues run out of India following the massive success of cricket's Twenty20 Indian Premier League.

There is an Indian Soccer League involving players such as Nicolas Anelka, Alessandro Del Piero, Robert Pires and Luis Garcia, as well as similar competitions in field hockey and kabaddi.

Top players in the IPTL:

Manila Mavericks: Andy Murray, Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, Maria Sharapova, Carlos Moya.

Singapore Slammers: Serena Williams, Tomas Berdych, Lleyton Hewitt, Patrick Rafter.

Indian Aces: Roger Federer, Ana Ivanovic, Pete Sampras, Sania Mirza.

UAE Royals: Novak Djokovic, Marin Cilic, Caroline Wozniaki, Goran Ivanisevic. □

Caroline Wozniacki, Venus Williams to start 2015 in NZ

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Former top-ranked Caroline Wozniacki and Venus Williams will open their 2015 tennis seasons at the ASB Classic in Auckland from Jan. 5. The No. 1-ranked doubles combination of Roberta Vinci and Sara Errani will also start the new season at the hard court tournament in New Zealand. Errani is ranked No. 14 in singles and is one

of five top-30 players in the main singles draw for the traditional Australian Open leadup. Wozniacki is currently ranked No. 8 in singles and Williams, runner-up in Auckland last year, is 18th. The 32 player main draw, confirmed Wednesday, also includes two-time Grand Slam champion Svetlana Kuznetsova and 22-year-old American Coco Vandeweghe. □



Cholesterol, the Good and the Bad

In the past they would kill the messenger who delivered news that king did not want to hear. Tough job, fortunately, this doesn't happen today. Or does it? With the declaration of helping patients, doctors try to eliminate your body signs (messages) with drugs. When consulting an allopathic doctor the first thing investigated is to see if you have a disease. If not, they may test your blood and identify values that they think will cause a disease. With higher than normal cholesterol numbers, cholesterol lowering drugs are frequently prescribed. Is this the best thing to do? Could it be that the remedy may be worse than the disease?

Cholesterol lowering drugs, known as statins are proving to be killers. Documents indicate some senior executives of German pharmaceutical maker Bayer, knew its anti-cholesterol drug Baycol was causing illness and death long before pulling it off the market. It produces a side effect called rhabdomyolysis which causes severe pain and muscle weakness. Serious cases can shut down the kidneys and cause paralysis or death. During other drug studies, test patients have committed suicide. In fact, suicide is a stated possible risk from taking cholesterol lowering medicine. Why? Lipoproteins, which are attached to cholesterol, provide a means by which toxins including, heavy metals, solvent toxins, pesticides, and petro-chemicals can be removed from your brain and nerves. As cholesterol falls,

less lipoproteins are available lowering your body's ability to remove these poisons.

For natural physicians, cholesterol is not bad. Hydroxy sterols are found in both animal and plant life. Cholesterol, a complicated form of alcohol is the main sterol of higher life forms. With the exception of brain and red blood cells, all cells in your body are capable of synthesizing or producing cholesterol. Cholesterol provides strength for cell walls; a way to use other sterols and every day, cholesterol is converted into bile acid, which helps protect from and dissolve gall stones.

In your blood stream cholesterol contains lipoproteins. These proteins carry antioxidants such as vitamin E, beta carotene, and CoQ10 that help protect you from cancer. When cholesterol is naturally low or forced low with drugs, cancer risks rises because protection is reduced.

When a clinical nutritionist sees a high test value for cholesterol we look to see what caused your body to increase cholesterol to help protect your brain and nerves. If fat-soluble poisons are present, changing what you do or don't eat can help remove these "bad fats." With the poison gone, cells stop making excess cholesterol for protection.

So what don't we eat? Don't eat sugar, especially alcohol or any of the growing number of products with high fructose corn syrup. Stop all fried, salty, refined or processed foods, fatty dairy products or fatty

meats. When we tell patients this, many tell us we have just eliminated everything they eat. In fact we have just described the Standard American or Aruban Diet (SAD). Ok, what do we eat? Fresh fruits and vegetables, lean meats, but not pork, whole grains like brown rice oats or quinoa, a Peruvian supergrain. Wheat is not the best choice for many people because of allergies and gluten intolerance. Fish that swim constantly in deep water are loaded with "good" HDL cholesterol which is needed to manufacture some very wonderful hormones, like sex hormones. Medicinal oils packed with HDL include: olive, evening primrose, black currant, flax, safflower and soy. Herbs that lower LDL/triglycerides (bad cholesterol) are Shiitake mushrooms, cayenne, ginger, cat's claw, garlic and turmeric.

"Good cholesterol" producing foods which include essential fatty acids (EFA) rich in Omega 3, 6 and 9 in the correct proportions have changed with modern diets. Most of us are not getting enough Omega 3's and some of us are not getting enough of omega 3 and 6. Supplementing with Flax oil or Omega fish oils is more important than ever. Lecithin is good oil I consider a basic, especially for protecting the brain. Make sure you only use fish oils certified to be free of toxins like Mercury. Eat smaller meals, especially before bed. While you sleep, the stomach also sleeps and food does not digest properly.



Want to get all this under control quickly? Eat only brown rice for three weeks. Nothing else! Include lots of water and moderate exercise. It's always best to do a cleansing diet like this with the supervision of a clinical nutritionist. Get the point! Not all cholesterol is bad. Cholesterol lowering drugs and their known side effects are not the only choice. We need good cholesterol to protect our brains and nerves. Changes in diet and lifestyle can naturally help control not only "bad" cholesterol, but you might find improvement with symptoms of high blood pressure, arthritis, and diabetes. Call us for a full evaluation of the good and the bad of your health. Let us teach you how to turn the "ugly" into "beautiful!"

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine

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Google's latest: A spoon that steadies tremors

MARTHA MENDOZA

AP National Writer

MOUNTAIN VIEW, California

(AP) — Google is throwing its money, brain power and technology at the humble spoon.

Of course these spoons (don't call them spoogles) are a bit more than your basic utensil: Using hundreds of algorithms, they allow people with essential tremors and Parkinson's Disease to eat without spilling. The technology senses how a hand is shaking and makes instant adjustments to stay balanced. In clinical trials, the Liftware spoons reduced shaking of the spoon bowl by an average of 76 percent.

"We want to help people in their daily lives today and hopefully increase understanding of disease in the long run," said Google spokesperson Katelin Jabbari. Other adaptive devices have been developed to help people with tremors — rocker knives, weighted utensils, pen grips. But until now, experts say, technology has not been used in this way.

"It's totally novel," said UC San Francisco Medical Center neurologist Dr. Jill Ostrem who specializes in movement disorders like Parkinson's disease and essential tremors.

She helped advise the inventors, and says the device has been a remarkable asset for some of her patients.

"I have some patients who couldn't eat independently, they had to be fed, and now they can eat on their own," she said. "It doesn't cure the disease, they still have tremor, but it's a very positive change."

Google got into the no-shake utensil business in September, acquiring a small, National Institutes of Health-funded startup



In this photo taken Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014, Shirin Vala, 65, who is an essential tremor patient, uses a Liftware Spoon to eat without spilling at her home in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

called Lift Labs for an undisclosed sum.

More than 10 million people worldwide, including Google co-founder Sergey Brin's mother, have essential tremors or Parkinson's disease. Brin has said he also has a mutation associated with higher rates of the Parkinson's and has donated more than \$50 million to research for a cure, although Jabbari said the Lift Labs acquisition was not related.

Lift Lab founder Anupam Pathak said moving from a small, four-person startup in San Francisco to the vast Google campus in Mountain View has freed him up to be more creative as he explores how to apply the technology even more broadly.

His team works at the search giant's division called Google(x) Life Sciences, which is also developing a smart contact lens that measures glucose levels in tears for diabetics and is researching how nanoparticles in blood might help detect diseases. Joining Google has been motivating, said Pathak, but his focus remains on people who are now able to eat independently with his device. "If you build something with your hands and it has that sort of an impact, it's the greatest feeling ever," he said. "As an

engineer who likes to build things, that's the most validating thing that can happen."

Pathak said they also hope to add sensors to the spoons to help medical researchers and providers better understand, measure and alleviate tremors. Shirin Vala, 65, has had an essential tremor for about a decade. She was at her monthly Essential Tremor group at a San Ramon medical clinic earlier this year when researchers developing the device introduced the idea and asked if anyone was interested in helping them.

As it was refined, she tried it out and gave them feedback. And when they hit the market at \$295 apiece, she bought one.

Without the spoon, Vala said eating was really a challenge because her hands trembled so hard food fell off the utensils before she could eat it.

"I was shaking and I had a hard time to keep the food on a spoon, especially soup or something like an olive or tomatoes or something. It is very embarrassing. It's very frustrating," she said.

The spoon definitely improved her situation. "I was surprised that I held the food in there so much better. It makes eating much easier, especially if I'm out at a restaurant," she said.



In this photo taken Friday, Nov. 21, 2014, is the Liftware Spoon, that helps people with eat without spilling, in its packaging at Google headquarters in Mountain View, Calif.

Twitter lets merchants offer deals to its users

NEW YORK (AP) — Twitter is expanding its reach into commerce with a new tool called "Offers."

Advertisers can post promotions and discounts in users' Twitter feeds, whether or not the users follow those merchants on the short-messaging service.

To redeem an offer, customers enter their credit or debit card information. They then use the same card to redeem the promotion in a store. After they do, they will get cash back

on their card. For now, the feature only works in the U.S. but Twitter could expand it to other countries. San Francisco-based Twitter Inc. says it will encrypt and store the credit card information but users can remove it any time.

The company has slowly been branching out into shopping. It launched a "Buy" button in September that lets users make purchases or donate money to charities without leaving Twitter. Facebook is also

testing a similar tool.

Pushing into e-commerce could help Twitter add another source of revenue as the digital advertising market grows and more people shop online. It has been trying to increase its user base amid some concerns of a slowdown. It had 284 million monthly active users at the end of September, an increase of 23 percent from a year earlier. Its stock ended Tuesday down 43 cents, or 1 percent, at \$39.76.



Wall Street inches to record ahead of holiday

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. stock market eked out another record close on Wednesday ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday as investors assessed the latest reports on the economy and some corporate earnings.

the previous month.

The reports paint a picture of a "good, but not great" economy, said Scott Keifer, global investment specialist at JPMorgan Private Bank. Slow growth is keeping inflation low and that's holding down interest rates. The result is an environment in which stocks

The index has now closed at an all-time high on 47 occasions this year.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 12.81 points, or 0.1 percent, to 17,827.75. The Nasdaq composite climbed 29.07 points, or 0.6 percent, to 4,787.32. Semiconductor stocks were among the gain-

for stocks in the S&P 500, which rose 2.3 percent.

Stocks have rebounded strongly from a slump that lasted from mid-September to mid-October. The S&P 500 has surged 11.3 percent since then. The gains have slowed this week, however, ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday.

"This seems to be a classic holiday plateau," said Kristina Hooper, head of US Capital Markets Research & Strategy for Allianz Global Investors. "Probably, we are not going to get any focus until we come back on Monday."

The U.S. stock market will be closed on Thursday for the Thanksgiving holiday. It will also close early, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern time, on Friday.

Among individual stocks, Deere was among the losers. The company's fourth-quarter results were stronger than Wall Street expected, but the company said its sales of farm equipment and its income will keep falling in the company's new fiscal year. Deere's stock slid 80 cents, or 0.9 percent, to \$86.99.

Energy stocks were once again the biggest loser of the 10 industry groups represented in the S&P 500 index as the price of oil dipped again.

The price of oil slid to another four-year low in light trading ahead of an OPEC meeting Thursday in Vienna that is not expected to result in a cut to global production. □



Amy Kule, second from right, executive producer of Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, is joined by Miss USA 2014 Nia Sanchez, and Santa Claus as she rings the New York Stock Exchange opening bell, Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2014. The U.S. stock market will be closed on Thursday for the Thanksgiving holiday. It will also close early, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern time, on Friday.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Orders for long-lasting manufactured goods rose in October, but a key category that tracks business investment plans declined sharply for a second straight month. Another report showed U.S. consumers spent modestly more in October, a slight improvement after no gain at all in

can prosper.

"There seems to be a feeling that the markets are going to continue to drift higher as we get to the end of the year," said Keifer, who is based in Orange County, Calif.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 5.80 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,072.83.

ers on Wednesday after Analog Devices reported income and revenue that exceeded Wall Street's forecasts. The company said it expects revenue growth of 21 percent in its first fiscal quarter. The stock jumped \$2.85, or 5.5 percent, to \$54.56, leading gains for semiconduc-

US orders for durable goods up 0.4 percent

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Orders to U.S. factories for long-lasting manufactured goods rose in October, but a key category that tracks business investment plans declined sharply for a second straight month.

Orders for durable goods increased 0.4 percent last month following a 0.9 percent drop in September and an even bigger 18.3 percent plunge in August, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday.

day. The two months of declines reflected big swings in the volatile category of commercial aircraft.

The small October gain was unimpressive, with declines in a number of categories including machinery, computers and primary metals such as steel.

A key category viewed as a proxy for business investment spending fell 1.3 percent in October after a similar 1.3 percent September drop. It was the biggest setback since a 1.4 percent May decline.

Economists believe the declines will be temporary. They note that spending by businesses on new equipment grew at a solid annual rate of 10.7 percent in the third quarter, and they expect further gains in the coming months as businesses invest to expand and modernize their operations.

For October, demand for transportation products rose 3.4 percent, reflecting strength in motor vehicles and a small decline in commercial aircraft or-

ders. Demand for primary metals fell 2.4 percent, while orders for machinery dropped 1.2 percent.

The Institute for Supply Management reported that its closely watched gauge of manufacturing activity posted a solid gain to a reading of 59 in October, up from 56.6 in September. Any reading above 50 signals expansion.

The report is a good sign that the strength in manufacturing will continue in coming months. □

STREET BRIEFS

Netflix sues Yahoo ex-CIO for kickbacks

NEW YORK (AP) — Netflix is suing a former company vice president who is now chief information officer at Yahoo, accusing him of receiving money from vendors he hired to work with the video streaming company. Netflix says in the lawsuit that two companies paid Michael Kail commissions of up to 15 percent after he secured contracts with them. To date, Los Gatos, California-based Netflix says it paid the companies a combined total of more than \$3.7 million. Netflix says it was not aware of the payments until after Kail left in August for Yahoo. At Yahoo Inc., based in Sunnyvale, California, Kail oversees data center operations and reports to CEO Marissa Mayer. Yahoo and Netflix Inc. declined to comment. Kail did not immediately respond to a request for comment. □

Thomas Cook shares tumble as CEO quits

LONDON (AP) — Thomas Cook Chief Executive Harriet Green has stepped down in a surprise move that wiped off around a fifth of the market value from the U.K.-based travel operator. During Green's two-year tenure, Thomas Cook was transformed from failing tour operator to solid company. She cut costs — closing shops, reducing its air fleet and selling hotels. The company is valued at just under 2 billion pounds (\$3.2 billion), compared to just 148 million pounds in July 2012. She said Wednesday she had intended to go once her work was complete. Green says "that time is now." Green will be replaced by chief operating officer Peter Fankhauser, who has been with Thomas Cook for 13 years. Thomas Cook's share price fell nearly 20 percent in early trading to 111 pence. □

Deere dips on shaky outlook for fiscal year 2015

NEW YORK (AP) — Deere's fourth-quarter results were stronger than Wall Street expected but it says its farm equipment sales and profits will keep falling in its new fiscal year as the sector remains weak. Its shares slipped in midday trading on Wednesday. The world's biggest farm equipment supplier says

its annual net income will drop about 40 percent and revenue from agricultural and turf equipment will fall further than it did in fiscal 2014. Falling commodity prices and lower farm income are hurting companies like Deere & Co., and in August, Deere lowered its outlook and said it would cut production in

response to weak sales. The Moline, Illinois, company said agriculture and turf equipment fell 13 percent in fiscal 2014 and it expects them to drop 20 percent in the current fiscal year. Deere got almost three-quarters of its revenue from those products in the last fiscal year. The company expects revenue from construc-

tion and forestry equipment to keep improving. In the fourth quarter Deere says it earned \$649.2 million, or \$1.83 per share, down from \$806.8 million, or \$2.11 per share, a year ago. Its revenue was \$8.97 billion, down from \$9.45 billion a year ago. FactSet says analysts expected a profit of \$1.57

per share and \$7.73 billion in revenue for the quarter, which ended on Oct. 31. The company's shares fell \$1.14, or 1.3 percent, to \$86.65 in midday trading. Deere stock has fallen 4 percent in 2014, but it has moved upward since early October, when it traded under \$79. The shares reached an annual peak of \$94.89 in May. □

Applications for US jobless aid jump up to 313,000

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of people seeking U.S. unemployment benefits jumped last week, pushing total applications above 300,000 for the first time in nearly three months.

Weekly applications rose 21,000 to a seasonally adjusted 313,000, the Labor Department said Wednesday. That's the highest level since the first week of September. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, rose 6,250 to 294,000.

The increase is unlikely to raise concerns about the broader health of the job market. At least some of the rise occurred because of seasonal layoffs in businesses affected by the cold weather, such as construction. The department seeks to control for such seasonal factors but doesn't always do so perfectly.

Applications had been under 300,000 for 10 straight weeks, an unusually low

level that indicates companies are laying off fewer workers.

Even with last week's increase, the overall level of

cent in the past year, and isn't that far from a 14-year low of 279,000 reached last month.

"Though we have seen

low," Derek Lindsey, an economist at BNP Paribas, said in a note to clients.

The fall in applications has coincided with stron-

pace to be strongest year for hiring since 1999. That's up from an average of 194,000 last year.

The unemployment rate has fallen to 5.8 percent, a six-year low, down from 7.2 percent a year ago.

Still, the number of people without jobs is concerning, with nearly 9 million Americans officially unemployed. That compares with 7.6 million before the recession. Yet barely a quarter of the unemployed are actually receiving unemployment aid.

That partly reflects the drop in layoffs. But it also suggests that Americans are more confident that they will find work when they do lose jobs. They also may be finding jobs faster than in the earlier stages of the recovery. As a result, they may be less likely to seek unemployment benefits. The percentage of laid off workers who apply for benefits is lower than it was just after the recession ended five years ago, economists estimate. □



Job seekers Stevens de la Pena, foreground left, and Eduardo Perez, foreground right, fill out a job application at a job fair in Miami Lakes, Fla. The Labor Department released weekly jobless claims on Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2014.
(AP Photo/Alan Diaz)

applications is well below where it was 12 months ago. The four week average has tumbled 12.2 per-

cent over the past three weeks in the four-week average, the trend in claims remains relatively

flat. Employers have added an average of 229,000 jobs a month this year, putting 2014 on

US new home sales up 0.7 percent in October

M. CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sales of new U.S. homes edged up modestly in October, led by a big jump in activity in the Midwest.

New home sales advanced 0.7 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 458,000, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday. The result followed a smaller 0.4 percent gain in September

and put sales at the highest point since May.

The strength last month stemmed from a big 15.8 percent increase in sales in the Midwest and a smaller 7.1 percent rise in the Northeast. Those increases offset a 1.9 percent fall in sales in the South, which accounts for half of the new-home market, and a 2.7 percent drop in the West.

The median price of a home sold in October was

\$305,000, up 16.5 percent from a year ago.

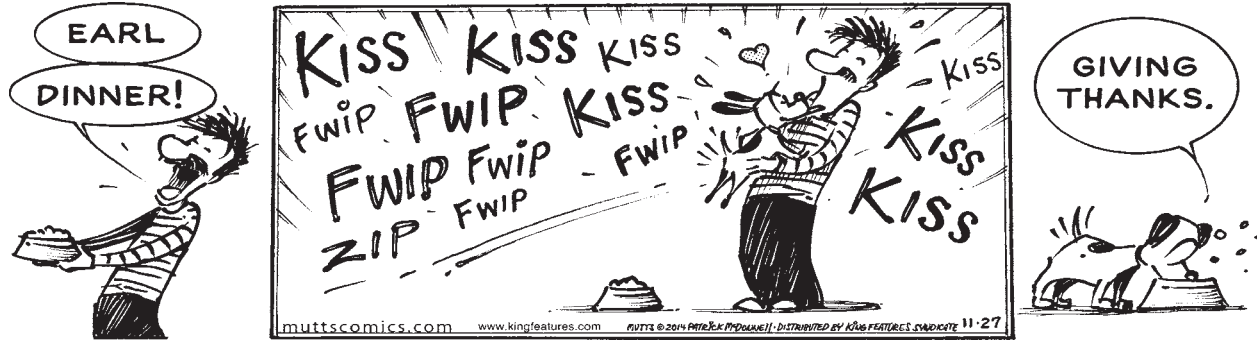
Housing has struggled to recover since the recession ended in June 2009. Many potential buyers lack the savings and strong credit history needed to afford a home, causing them to rent or remain in their existing homes instead of upgrading. New home sales remain sharply below the annual rate of 700,000 seen during the 1990s.

A combination of factors has depressed sales. An unusually harsh winter crippled sales at the beginning of the year and even after the snow had melted, tight credit, rising home prices and flat incomes for many Americans have limited the number of buyers who could afford a home.

A separate report Wednesday showed that the number of Americans signing contracts to buy homes

fell slightly in October. The National Association of Realtors' pending home sales index declined 1.1 percent to 104.1. But in an encouraging sign, sales of existing homes rose 1.5 percent in October to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.26 million, NAR said last week. October marked the first month of 2014 in which sales of previously owned homes were higher than the same month in 2013. □

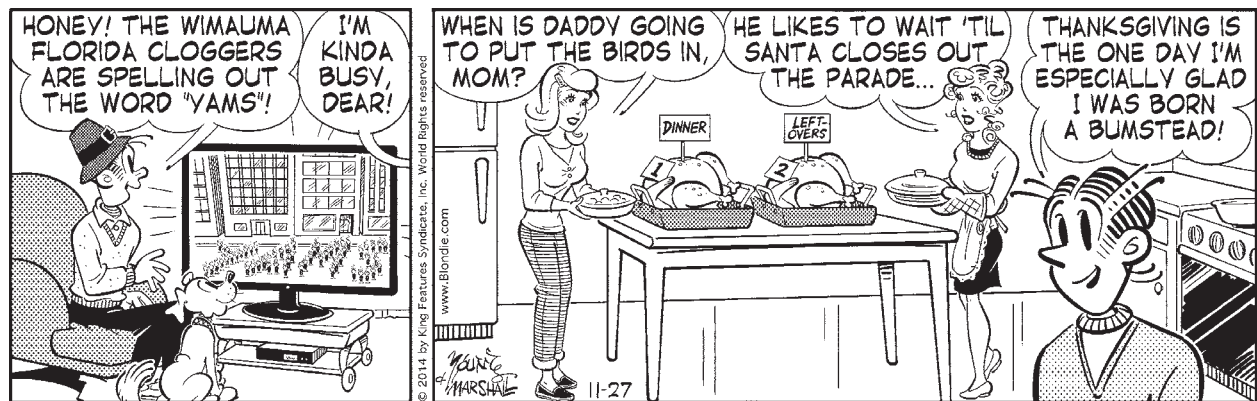
Mutts



6 Chix



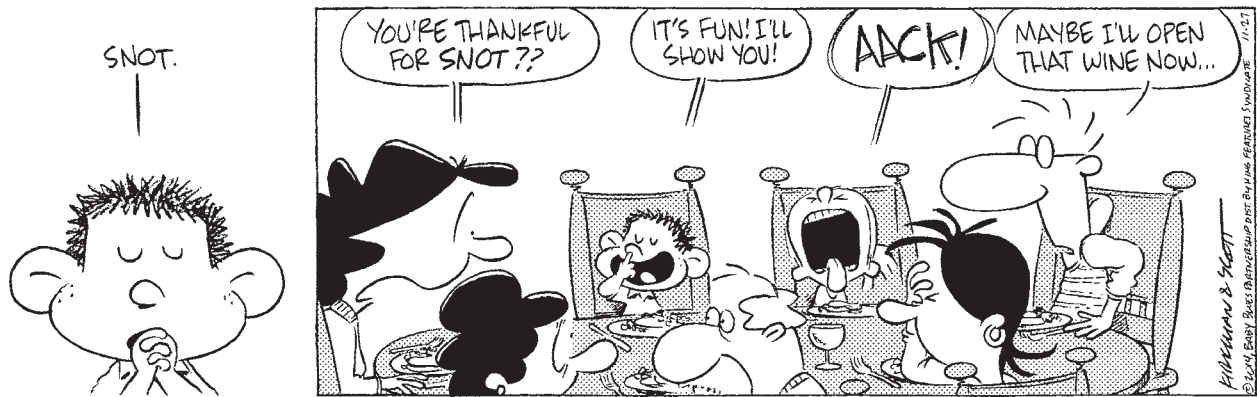
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	7		5		9		1	
	6	8				2	5	
	4		1		2		3	
3								5
	5		8		7		2	
	9	3				1	4	
	2		6		5		8	

Difficulty Level ★★

11/27

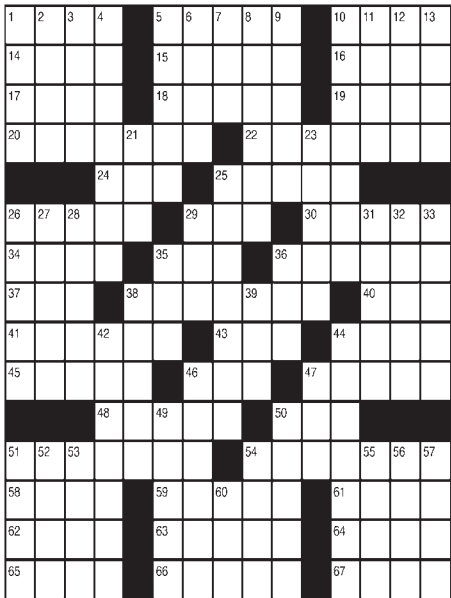
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

6	2	9	7	3	4	8	1	5
1	4	7	5	6	8	3	9	2
5	3	8	2	1	9	4	7	6
7	5	6	9	8	1	2	3	4
3	1	2	4	7	6	5	8	9
8	9	4	3	2	5	7	6	1
9	8	5	6	4	3	1	2	7
2	6	1	8	5	7	9	4	3
4	7	3	1	9	2	6	5	8

ACROSS

- 1 Ignore rudely & deliberately
5 Neck warmer
10 ___ for; selects
14 Easy stride
15 Ibis or flamingo
16 Patriot Revere
17 "Take ___ leave it"
18 Calcutta's nation
19 Evergreen tree
20 Continue stubbornly
22 Protected
24 Koch & Asner
25 Pianist Previn
26 VP ___ Agnew
29 City transport
30 Boxer ___ De La Hoya
34 Aaron or Azaria
35 ___ a ball; enjoyed oneself
36 St. Francis' home
37 Hostel
38 Balcony
40 Clear liquor
41 Brother's daughters
43 Christmas __; December 24
44 Sheep cries
45 "Beat it!"
46 Retina's place
47 Author Jules ___
48 Extends across
50 Meadowland
51 Exclude; refuse admittance to
54 Small ax
58 ___ with the punches; adjust
59 One who wears swim fins
61 Give a job to
62 Actress Meara
63 Cake coating
64 Breakfast order
65 Atlantic & Black
66 Josh with
67 Injection
- DOWN
- 1 Undergarment
2 Memo
3 "Put ___ shut up!"
4 In a violent frenzy
5 Cheese variety
6 Isn't able to
7 Tally up
8 Holds sway
9 Swindle
10 Tyrannize
11 ___ up; satisfied one's debts
12 Melody
13 Snow toy
21 Wedding vow
23 Got up
25 Hepburn and Meadows
26 Lower leg parts
27 Acute anxiety
28 Near the center
29 Tavern
31 Stogie or clarinet
32 Of the largest continent
33 Hose down
35 "___ got the whole world..."
36 Highest spade



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/27/14

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

FARM	HOODS	SCAM
OVER	ERNIE	HOSE
LIPS	RACETRACKS	
DDE	GALE	AMASS
	NULLS	HIE
HATRED	MIDDAY	
OFAGE	PRODS	LEE
LONE	GLOBE	STAY
DOC	SLOBS	CHORE
TEAMED	REIGNS	
DEN	SALVE	
SAMOA	PHIL	TOM
ABERRATION	OHIO	
CLAN	PEEVE	BENS
KENS	ENDED	IRKS

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11/27/14

- 38 Musical speed
39 "___ Maria"
42 Palaces
44 Sandy shores
46 Lure
47 Nov. honoree
49 Review of the financial books
50 T-shirt size
- 51 Spanish wives: abbr.
52 Sharpen
53 Arm bone
54 Egg producers
55 As ___ as a kite
56 Consequently
57 Examination
60 By way of

Turkey Tracks: Social Advice for Thanksgiving Holiday

PHILIP GALANES
© 2014 New York Times

Q: I am starting to resent the people who can't quite commit to coming to my Thanksgiving dinner. One close friend says she needs to "keep it open," and has no idea when she will be able to confirm because her partner is having a hard time. Another says he'd like to drop by "at some point," but doesn't know when because he wants to go to another dinner first. This is driving me crazy. A lovely group is coming, and there are others I would like to invite if I can resolve these uncommitted guests. What can I do? - Anonymous

A: We all know that they who hesitate are lost. Less often considered: They really screw up our place settings, too. May I suggest "no" as an answer? In your sweetest voice, say: "I'm sorry, but 'maybe' doesn't work. It's a seated dinner. But we'll miss you ferociously." Sometimes, helping friends off the fence like this can even be a mercy. (They take it into their heads that we will be offended if they decline, when we are just trying to work out how many mini-tarts we need.) Then invite the other folks you want to include.

But check your motives before you go this route. If your dinner is buffet-style, does it really matter if a few pals want to keep their plans loose? The flip side of their reluctance to refuse outright can be our hurt feelings when friends aren't as thrilled about coming as we are to have them. Try to cut them some slack. The big holidays have a way of pressing our tenderest buttons.

Q: I have an open kitchen. In the past, when I cooked the big Thanksgiving meal, my guests converged around me and said, "Oh, I wouldn't do it like that." Or worse, "If you do it like that, I won't eat it." So, we shifted to potluck. It's been easier on everyone that way. But after a couple of years of plain, baked sweet potatoes, I'd like to

try a yummy-looking recipe with caramelized apples. But when I suggested it to the traditional bringer of sweet potatoes, she took it as a personal insult. How do you suggest dealing with friends and food prep? - Vicky

A: Food fights are rarely about preparation. No, they (like so many conflicts) boil down to control. You are welcome to undertake a friendly grapple. When pals tell you that you are sautéing your onions all wrong, say, "Let's just try it this way and see what happens." And worse fates have befallen many of us than having two sweet potato dishes on the buffet. Still, having now watched 10,000 cooking competitions on television and scrolled past 20,000 succulent posts on Instagram, I am sick to death of food. Aren't you? So, my vote for communal cooking and peaceable potlucks (if anyone cares): Take a Klonopin and let the good times roll. You've assembled a veritable smorgas-

bord of family and friends around your table; you've already won. If caramelized apples are going to give your bestie a myocardial infarction, save them for another day.

Q: When a hostess says, "Come around 6 p.m.," what time do you recommend we arrive? - Karen

A: Give your hosts a 15-minute grace period to tie up loose ends (but not much longer). Most of us are not accustomed to the Cecil B. DeMille production of home cookery that Thanksgiving has become in many households. Ambitious hosts can be a mite tense. The least we can do for them, as guests, is follow their choreography and show up on time-ish.

Q: Our 18-year-old daugh-

ter came out to us as transgender (male to female) in her senior year of high school. It wasn't easy for us, but we now support her transition. She chose a college 3,000 miles away from our conservative home and told us that we can tell anyone we like. At our Thanksgiving dinner, we will have one couple who knows and another who doesn't. (The subject of our children always comes up.) Should we tell them? There are often uncomfortable questions, and rapid acceptance has not been our experience. - Anonymous

A: People often use holidays and other gatherings to make their big announcements. I get it: killing several birds (and one dry turkey) with a single stone. □

Classifieds

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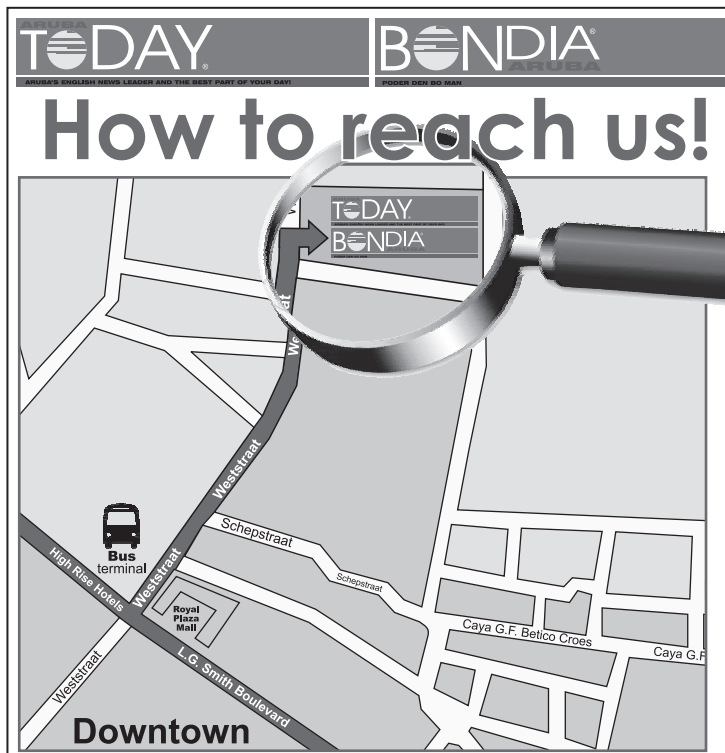
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CRUISESHIP



November 27

Carnival Breeze

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Narcotics Anonymous

Tel: 583-8989

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24/7

Reading Harry Potter gives clues to brain activity

LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Reading about Harry Potter's adventures learning to fly his broomstick activates some of the same regions in the brain we use to perceive real people's actions and intentions.

In a novel study, scientists who peeked into the brains of people caught up in a good book emerged with maps of what a healthy brain does as it reads.

The research reported Wednesday has implications for studying reading disorders or recovery from a stroke. The team from Carnegie Mellon University was pleasantly surprised that the experiment actually worked.

Most neuroscientists painstakingly have tracked how the brain processes a single word or sentence, looking for clues to language development or dyslexia by focusing on one aspect of reading at a time. But reading a story requires multiple systems working at once: recognizing how letters form a word, knowing the definitions and grammar, keeping up with the characters' relationships and the plot twists.

Measuring all that activity is remarkable, said Georgetown University neuroscientist Guinevere Eden, who helped pioneer brain-

scanning studies of dyslexia but wasn't involved in the new work.

"It offers a much richer way of thinking about the reading brain," Eden said, calling the project "very clever and very exciting."

No turning pages inside a brain-scanning MRI ma-

has plenty of action and emotion as Harry swoops around on his broom, faces the bully Malfoy and later runs into a three-headed dog, but there's not too much going on for scientists to track, said lead researcher Leila Wehbe, a Ph.D. student.

like have you read a story and watch where in your brain the neural activity is happening," said senior author Tom Mitchell, director of Carnegie Mellon's Machine Learning Department. "Not just where are the neurons firing, but what information is being coded

if it was associated with a character or action or emotion or conversation. Then they used computer programming to analyze brain patterns associated with those features in every four-word stretch.

They spotted some complex interactions.

For example, the brain region that processes the characters' point of view is the one we use to perceive intentions behind real people's actions, Wehbe said. A region that we use to visually interpret other people's emotions helps decipher characters' emotions.

That suggests we're using pretty high-level brain functions, not just the semantic concepts but our previous experiences, as we get lost in the story, she said.

A related study using faster brain-scanning techniques shows that much of the neural activity is about the history of the story up to that point, rather than deciphering the current word, Mitchell added.

The team's computer model can distinguish with 74 percent accuracy which of two text passages matches a pattern of neural activity, he said, calling it a first step as researchers tease apart what the brain does when someone reads. □



Leila Wehbe, a Ph.D. student at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, talks about an experiment that used brain scans made in this brain-scanning MRI machine on campus, Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2014.
Associated Press.

chine; you have to lie still. So at Carnegie Mellon, eight adult volunteers watched for nearly 45 minutes as each word of Chapter 9 of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" was flashed for half a second onto a screen inside the scanner.

Why that chapter? It

The research team analyzed the scans, second by second, and created a computerized model of brain activity involved with different reading processes. The research was published Wednesday by the journal PLoS One.

"For the first time in history, we can do things

by those different neurons."

Wehbe had the idea to study reading a story rather than just words or phrases. But parsing the brain activity took extraordinary effort. For every word, the researchers identified features — the number of letters, the part of speech,

Dutch seek to harness energy from salt water mix

TOBY STERLING
Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Dutch researchers are seeking to add a new, largely untapped renewable energy source to the world's energy mix with the opening of a "Blue Energy" test facility on Wednesday.

Blue energy takes advan-

tage of the difference in salt concentration between sea water and fresh water to produce electricity. Rik Siebers of REDstack BV, the company overseeing the project, said the goal is to improve the technology to the point where it will be profitable to build blue energy plants

commercially in the 2020s. Siebers said blue energy will one day have its own niche.

"For wind turbines you need wind, and solar panels work in the day, but water is always flowing," he said in a telephone interview Wednesday.

The Dutch plant has a

theoretical maximum capacity of 50 megawatts, about enough to power 100 Dutch homes. A more limited trial of similar technology began in Norway in 2009.

The technique uses two specialized filters with salt and fresh water on each side. One filter lets posi-

tively charged sodium ions seep through, while the other admits negatively charged chlorine ions, creating a natural battery.

Each square meter of the filter panel can generate roughly one watt, and the filters are then arranged in stacks of hundreds to multiply the effect. □

Rare Shakespeare Folio discovered in French town

THOMAS ADAMSON

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The accidental discovery in a small library in northern France of an original first folio of Shakespeare's plays has sent a jolt of excitement around the world of Shakespeare scholars.

The find brings the total of known folios in the world to 233, and is significant as each first folio can contain variations that shed light on the bard's intentions. Among the 900 pages of the most recent discovery are rare annotations that suggest it was used for performance. The annotations "might tell us something about Shakespeare's reception at the time, how they were thought of as text for performance," said Stanley Wells, honorary president Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. Scholars have not yet had a chance to carry out the painstaking comparisons with the texts of other folios to determine what variations the latest discovery may con-



The newly discovered Shakespeare's original first folio is seen in the Saint-Omer library, northern France, Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2014. Associated Press

tain. Remy Cordonnier, the director of the Saint-Omer library's medieval and early modern collection, happened upon the folio among the belongings of a Jesuit evangelist that were bequeathed from a now-defunct Jesuit college in the town.

"I first tried to keep a level head as I wasn't sure 100 percent of its authenticity," Cordonnier said.

Missing were 12 title pages, which record the printing date and location. So Cordonnier sought the help of Eric Rasmussen, a Nevada-based specialist in Shakespeare first folios, who traveled to the small town near Calais to examine it. Rasmussen concluded that it was among about 750 Shakespeare first folios printed in 1623, seven years after the playwright died.

The first folios are the first complete printed collections of Shakespeare's plays. Sixteen Shakespeare plays, including "The Tempest" and "Macbeth," were not printed in the bard's lifetime — meaning the first folio saved them from oblivion. One first folio in 2006 sold at Christie's for \$6.8 million. □

Met Museum gets major gift of African-American art

NEW YORK (AP) — The Metropolitan Museum of Art has received a major gift of works by contemporary African-American artists from the South.

The museum says the donation includes 20 works by female quilters from a remote community in Alabama.

It also contains 10 pieces by Thornton Dial, as well as paintings, drawings and mixed media works by Lonnie Holley, Nellie Mae Rowe and others.

The gift of 57 works comes from the Atlanta-based Souls Grown Deep Foundation. The nonprofit was started in 2010 by art historian William Arnett to bring attention to self-taught African-American artists.

Arnett says in a statement that the collection documents a little-known artistic tradition that began in the



This photo provided by the Metropolitan Museum of Art shows a 2003 sculpture made of found metal items welded together entitled "Four Hundred Years of Free Labor," by American artist Joe Minter. Associated Press

Deep South, likely during the earliest days of slavery. An exhibition of the works is planned for 2016. □

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Witherspoon goes on a soul-baring ride in 'Wild'

JOCELYN NOVECK

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Once she'd decided to take on her gritty new role in "Wild," there were a few things Reese Witherspoon knew she DIDN'T want to hear from movie studio executives:

"We want her to be more likable."

"We don't want her to use drugs."

"We don't want her to be profane."

And so, Witherspoon says, she didn't give them the chance.

She developed the film, which follows a hard-living woman's path to solace and redemption via a long trek in the wilderness, outside the studio system under the auspices of her own production company, with private financing. "And then I took it to the studios and said, 'I'm not changing a word,'" Witherspoon recounts in an interview.

"And I had three bids on it that day."

"And I think it's important, you know?" the actress adds. "You grow up, you change — I'm a 38-year old woman now, I have three kids, and I've lived a lot of life experience. It's



In this Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014 file photo, actress Reese Witherspoon arrives at the LA Premiere of "WILD" in Beverly Hills, Calif. The movie starring Witherspoon opens in U.S. theaters on Dec. 5, 2014.

really important to me that the things I put out into the world are meaningful and thought-provoking. Otherwise, what am I doing?"

"Wild," based on the best-selling memoir by Cheryl Strayed, is a story of personal catharsis, and listening to Witherspoon, one gets the sense she was seeking a sort of professional catharsis by choosing it. The role, which has garnered signifi-

cant Oscar buzz, includes difficult scenes depicting rough sex and heroin use. Witherspoon wore no makeup and spent days lugging a heavy backpack up and down hills.

"By far, it's the hardest thing I've done in my life," she says. "The physical aspects were really challenging — the elements, the heat, the cold, the water, the rain, 55 locations in 35 days, and

carrying that backpack. And there was nothing else to cut to — just me."

Emotionally, it was even harder, she says: "One day I'd be getting divorced. Another, my mother would be dying. The next day I'd be using heroin. It was just nonstop — not even a roller coaster, just a continual descent downward! There are always scenes that I dread, that I say, 'That day's going

to be miserable.' And here, it was three weeks of that."

Witherspoon's director, Jean-Marc Vallee, calls the actress "a trouper." As well he should: He noticed that the backpack looked too light and forced her to carry a much heavier one. "And then he just walked away, and I was like, OK ..."

Witherspoon laughs. "You can see it digging into my skin. Because it really WAS digging into my skin!" Vallee says Witherspoon "went out there with no makeup, looking like nothing, on the trail for 65 percent of the film, looking like a hiker, with a heavy backpack on her back. I removed the mirrors in the makeup trailer and she didn't look at herself."

Witherspoon, who already has one Oscar on the mantelpiece for 2005's "Walk the Line," says it was no accident that she chose such a film at this point in her career, a time that finds her veering away from trademark sunny, bright roles and romantic comedies. (Her 2012 supporting role in the Mississippi River coming-of-age tale "Mud" is another example of her new direction.)

Associated Press



In this Nov. 13, 2014 file photo, members of the rock band AC/DC, bassist Cliff Williams, left, and guitarist Angus Young pose for a portrait in promotion of their upcoming album, "Rock or Bust" in New York. The new album releases on Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2014.

Associated Press

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — AC/DC finally joined iTunes in 2012 after years of refusing to do so, but make no mistake, the Australian rock band is still old school.

"I would like everybody to buy vinyl again," guitarist Angus Young said in an in-

terview. "That's my favorite."

He continued with a loud laugh: "They ought to make them portable — iVinyl."

AC/DC, which has enjoyed four decades of success, will release "Rock or Bust," its first album in six years, on Dec. 2. It is the follow-up to "Black Ice," which sold

With shake-ups, AC/DC perseveres with album, tour

784,000 units during its first week in 2008.

The band has yet to join Spotify, something Young said is possible.

"I guess, if it's doing a good service. I mean, we'll certainly entertain the idea, I suppose," he said, though Cliff Williams followed with the question: "Is it like Pandora? I've heard of it."

"Rock or Bust," which has received favorable reviews, is a typical AC/DC album and one the band hopes fans will listen to on record players, in addition to iPhones. It was recorded in May.

"You want people to put it on and go, 'That's AC/DC and no one else,'" Young said.

In a recent interview, the

two members were full of laughter and good energy as they discussed their new music and upcoming world tour, planned for next year. But the band is in the midst of turmoil and tragedy despite its success: Drummer Phil Rudd was recently charged with threatening to kill, and guitarist Malcolm Young, who has dementia, left the group in September.

Rudd, who showed up late to court in New Zealand this week and clowning around by jumping on the back of one of his security guards, is also charged with possessing methamphetamine and marijuana.

Young said Rudd was acting strangely as the band recorded "Rock or Bust"

and were starting to promote it. They plan to go tour without him, he said.

Ironically, Rudd's next court appearance is set for the same day that "Rock or Bust" will be released.

Young, 59, said his older brother, Malcolm, is doing fine, but couldn't play any longer.

"It was progressing further, but he knew he couldn't do it. ... He had continued as long as he could, still writing. But he said to me, 'Keep it going,'" Young said.

Malcolm, 61, is being replaced by their nephew, Stevie Young, who filled in for Malcolm during AC/DC's U.S. tour in 1988. Stevie also plays on "Rock or Bust."

Serving Without Protecting



FRANK BRUNI
© 2014 New York Times

My mother used to leave the front door unlocked. She used to leave the side and back doors unlocked, too. This was mostly a function of sloppiness - she had four kids, three pets and a whole lot else on her mind - but when pressed about it, she reasoned that anyone bent on intrusion would find a way and that it was all a matter of chance in the end.

She missed her calling as the director of the Secret Service.

What we've discovered over the past week and a half about the crackerjack operations of this elite agency boggles the mind, and nothing I learned during Tuesday's congressional hearing into its procedures did anything to un-boggle it.

The subject was how, on Sept. 19, a deranged man managed to get deep inside the White House - much deeper, it turns out, than the agency initially let on. We were first given the impression that he'd merely made it through the front door. Only later did The Washington Post and other news organizations unearth that he had zipped down the vestibule, past a staircase, through the East Room and almost to the Green Room. By the time all the facts emerge, we'll find out that he treated himself to a grilled cheese and a glass of Ovaltine in the kitchen, where he was interrupted mid-sandwich and given a doggie bag.

At the hearing, there were acute questions and ludicrous ones, genuine concern and disingenuous grandstanding, florid preening and runaway egos, which is to say that many politicians were crowded into one room.

There was verbiage so oblique it barely qualified as English, which is to say that government officials testified. Front and center was the head of the Secret Service, Julia Pierson, who behaved in the manner of so many beleaguered bureaucrats before her. She pledged reviews, reports, inquiries and assessments - a brimming thesaurus of self-examination - and tried to run out the clock.

She muttered sentences like this: "In downtown areas, there is sound attenuation."

This was a reference to the Secret Service's confusion in 2011 over whether someone had been shooting at the White House or

a motor vehicle in its vicinity had backfired.

The answer was shooting: Seven bullets hit one of this country's defining symbols, which is also the president's private residence, in which he and his family must feel - and be - unconditionally safe. And it wasn't Secret Service agents who identified the evidence. It was a housekeeper, happening upon shattered glass days after the fact.

These aren't minor, random smudges on the record of the Secret Service, which was also embarrassed a few years ago when agents on assignment in Colombia partied with prostitutes. They're cause for grave worry and a different kind of housecleaning.

Nothing about the events of Sept. 19 honors the responsibilities and capabilities of a great nation. According to Pierson's testimony, two agents that day had eyes on the intruder, who was known to them as a potential troublemaker and had shown up at the White House fence less than a month earlier with a hatchet. They were right not to detain him then: He'd committed no crime. But how could their monitoring of him during his return visit be so lax that he even got over that fence?

Not a beast or a beep worked properly. The guard dogs didn't guard. The alarm boxes didn't alarm. The front door couldn't be locked automatically as he sprinted toward it, because it wasn't rigged that way. We can fly drones over Pakistan, but we can't summon a proper locksmith to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.? Time and again, Washington validates the naysayers who like to dismiss it as the capital of bureaucratic incompetence. The president unveils his signature health care reform - arguably the cornerstone of his legacy - and the website repeatedly crashes. The IRS loses whole years of emails. A contractor for the National Security Agency steals away with a seemingly bottomless trove of classified documents.

The Department of Homeland Security fails to keep track of more than 6,000 foreigners in the country on student visas, or so ABC News reported in early September. And don't even get me started on the Department of Veterans Affairs.

There's precedent, yes, for White House intrusions. An uninvited guest once watched a movie with Franklin D. Roosevelt before being detected.

And America isn't alone. In 1982, Queen Elizabeth II awoke in Buckingham Palace to encounter a strange man in her bedroom. He and she reportedly chatted for 10 minutes.

I guess the palace didn't have all the "layers" and "rings" of security repeatedly mentioned at the congressional hearing, though a lot of good all those layers and rings did us. In the end, it's people who make the difference. The Secret Service needs better ones.



The Walrus and the Politicians



GAIL COLLINS
© 2014 New York Times

Let's consider the walrus crisis. They're piling up in Alaska. About 35,000 walruses have formed what looks to be a humongous brown ball along the northern coast. A mass of critters, some weighing 4,000 pounds, are pressed shoulder to shoulder - or flipper to flipper. Normally, they'd be sitting on chunks of ice, periodically flopping into the water to hunt for snails and clams. But the ice has melted away, and now they're stuck on land.

On the plus side, walruses are gregarious creatures who like to snuggle. The situation is, therefore, less dire than it would be if you had 35,000 extremely large human beings squashed together on a beach, competing for food. But they're nervous.

"A Russian friend of mine said he saw a rabbit - or a tiny lemming - come near and it caused a stampede," said Margaret Williams of the World Wildlife Fund. "Then the little calves get squished. It's just so unnatural for them to be so close to one another."

I believe we all would rather see the baby walruses in happier circumstances. Also, this is obviously the sign of worse things to come: melting ice, higher sea levels, warmer oceans, screwed-up weather patterns.

How should we react? Several options:

A) Adopt a walrus family! If every town pitches in, we'll have this solved in a minute. They can eat 6,000 clams in a single meal, so be sure to stock up.

B) Take this as a signal to get really serious about global warming.

C) Let's not get carried away. But maybe we could try to cut back on forest fires. Forest fires definitely make things hotter.

The last one is a somewhat snarky adaptation of the climate-change portion of an energy plan recently unveiled by Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, one of the Republican Party's many, many current presidential hopefuls. Louisiana does not suffer from a walrus problem. However, part of the state is sinking into the sea at a rather rapid rate, and you'd think he'd have some strong feelings about global warming. No sirree. Jindal thinks climate change is just a "Trojan horse" for leftists who want to mess with freedom of choice. But there is, you know, the forest fire idea.

You'd think that the people in charge of the states where climate change was wreaking the most havoc would be in the forefront of the battle to push it back. But no. In Alaska, entire towns are beginning to disappear under the rising seas. Roads are buckling as the permafrost starts to melt. Polar bears, which used to like to hang out on those ice floes themselves, are land bound, hungry and on the prowl.

Sen. Mark Begich, a Democrat, has been forthright about the terrible impact climate change has had, while slightly dodgy about exactly what he wants to do to about it. His opponent, Dan ("the jury's out") Sullivan isn't sure exactly what the heck is going on. He assured one Alaska newspaper that "there is no concrete scientific consensus on the extent to which humans contribute to climate change."

Actually, there's a pretty good consensus. A vast majority of climate scientists say that human beings are causing all or part of the changes in climate that are making life miserable

for the walrus and destroying the bayou country in Louisiana.

Also, causing the drains in Miami Beach to back up with saltwater, sending the ocean running down the streets. Florida has its own Republican presidential hopeful in Sen. Marco Rubio.

"I do not believe that human activity is causing these dramatic changes to our climate the way these scientists are portraying it," he told ABC News.

(Jeb Bush is from Florida, too. For the record, Bush's opinion on global warming is that it "may be real.")

There was a time when Republicans were leaders in the fight to slow climate change - particularly for the concept called "cap and trade," which had a marketplace-friendly tilt. Among the co-sponsors of a cap-and-trade bill in 2007 was Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska. Murkowski is now an independent, having lost her party's nomination in 2010 to a Tea Party favorite who complains about "climate-change alarmists."

These days, it takes courage for a Republican to acknowledge that human beings have anything to do with climate change at all.

"If you felt that was a big problem, you would think everybody in the world would be interested in going down this path, but I don't see any evidence of it so far," said the Senate minority leader, Mitch McConnell, helpfully. Pressed on the issue during a recent interview with The Cincinnati Enquirer, the man who hopes to become majority leader of the Senate next year said staunchly: "I'm not a scientist."

Also on the record as not being a scientist: Rick Scott, the governor of Florida, and Marco Rubio. Florida is absolutely awash in backed-up ocean water and elected officials who are not scientists. Louisiana has a rapidly receding coastline and a governor who's afraid of the energy industry. Alaska has drowning villages and a political establishment in denial.

We are the walrus.

In Britain, US Turkey Dinner Is Big For Business

DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Plump turkeys in butcher shop windows. Harvest displays of pumpkin and corn. Sandwich boards describing groaning feasts. Thanksgiving isn't a holiday in Britain, but you might be forgiven for being fooled. It's not hard to find someone to talk turkey, never mind sell you one. That's because there are so many Americans in Britain these days that dozens of businesses have started selling the goods they need to celebrate. Greg Klaes, a Detroit native who used to teach science on U.S. military base schools, started growing pumpkins 30 years ago so his students could carve Halloween jack-o-lanterns. This year, his Oxfordshire farm is selling 600 kilograms (1,322 pounds) a week, filling harvest decorations and pumpkin pies. "I believe firmly that there's a real integration of the societies," he said. "There's a lot of Americans and a lot

an upscale London borough that is home to many bankers and celebrities, U.S.-born residents make up 5 percent of the population. And since there's no other holiday that's quite like Thanksgiving, businesses big and small are finding ways to get in on the celebrations. Dozens of restaurants are putting on spreads. Texas-based Whole Foods has turned its store on Kensington High Street into a one-stop holiday shopping center beginning with a sidewalk chalkboard that welcomes customers with the message "We are here to make your Thanksgiving epic." Even the mainstream British grocery chain Waitrose is getting involved, although in a smaller way. A few blocks down the High Street in a store that's already decked out with red-and-green Christmas decorations, Waitrose has a small "Happy Thanksgiving" display, complete with a picture of a pumpkin wearing a buckled Pilgrim hat.



Danny Lidgate displays a turkey at his butchers shop in Holland Park in London, Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2014. Butcher Danny Lidgate, whose 160-year-old shop C. Lidgate, butcher and charcuterie, has been in the same family for five generations, says Americans just keep gobbling up the big broad-breasted heritage Bronze turkey. Put simply, business is very good indeed.

(AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)

Farm in Surrey has been around since the 1930s and sold 100 or so special birds during the Thanksgiving season 15 years ago. Farm owner Derek Joy says he now sells 4,500.

is most definitely British, Joy finds it strange when he is asked to dispense advice on a quintessentially American holiday, but he tries to keep it straightforward. "I'd say just treat it like Christmas day," Joy said. "And instead of doing a pudding, just buy a pumpkin pie."

There's a lot of Americana in London, especially when it comes to food. In trendy Notting Hill, made famous to Americans by the Julia Roberts film of the same name, there's even a store catering to the expats. Aptly named the American Food Store, replete with sign decorated with the Stars and Stripes, it caters to those in need of Hostess Twinkies, Pepperidge Farms Goldfish and Campbell's Soup. For the holiday they've added Libby's canned pumpkin, Stove Top stuffing and graham cracker pie crusts.

And for the really upscale, there's always Lidgate's. The ever-cheerful Danny Lidgate, whose 160-year-old shop has been in the same family for five generations, says Americans gobble up the big broad-breasted heritage Kelly Bronze turkeys he stocks. Put simply, business is very good.

For those who don't understand the holiday, Lidgate's offers this primer on its Website: "Turkeys feature prominently in the history of the Pilgrim fathers, and it is believed that many Puritan families owed their survival to wild turkeys."

Never mind that those Pilgrim parents left Britain fleeing religious persecution. That's all past. Everyone is friends now.

Lidgate says from the time he was a kid working at the shop, he's known Thanksgiving was special. "It's like a mini-Christmas," he said. "It's an energy we love."

Americans can expect to pay more than they would for similar fixings back home. Lidgate's is taking orders for Thanksgiving turkeys up to 12 kilograms (26.5 pounds), enough to feed 20 people. The price: 198 pounds (\$311).

Britain doesn't really have a holiday like Thanksgiving. There are harvest celebrations, but no single event compares to the mammoth festival of food and football that dominates American thought. Britons know about it, though, and in a world of multinational companies, they will expect their colleagues to be away on Thursday.



Danny Lidgate ties a turkey at his butchers shop in Holland Park in London, Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2014. (AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)

people want to share their cultures." Klaes is one of some 200,000 U.K. residents who were born in the U.S., according to census data. That's 26 percent more than in 2001. In Kensington and Chelsea,

Offerings include Ocean Spray cranberry sauce, Carnation evaporated milk and Libby's pumpkin, alongside British icons like Paxo Sage and Onion stuffing. Turkey producer Bramble

It's not just Americans who are buying. Joy said he has started getting calls from British families who want to put on feasts for their American work colleagues — so they don't feel lonesome on the big day. As he